

# Near East Relief

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## CHANGE OF NAME

With this issue the ACORNE becomes NEAR EAST RELIEF. The old initials A.C.R.N.E. officially disappeared when the American Committee for Relief in the Near East assumed its present name. The organization is the same, and our weekly bulletin will continue under its new title to do the work it has been doing heretofore in reporting the various activities of our Committee in the Near East.

## CLOTHING THE POPULATION OF AN ANCIENT CITY WITH AMERICAN SUPPLIES

The experiences of DR. ABBY NOYES LITTLE in Diarbekir

Diarbekir is situated about one hundred miles south of Harpoot and two hundred and fifty miles from Aleppo, and is in the Beirut Area. It was once known as Amidá, and was the capital of an ancient Babylonian province. The city is situated on a plain at the edge of the Tigris River, and its many walls of black stone give it the appearance of a black city. The walls around the city are intact and the entire population live within them—making living conditions very congested. Each house is surrounded by a wall to protect the Turkish ladies in their enclosed gardens from the public gaze and also as a protection from robbers. This city is the meeting place of the Turk, the Khurd, the Arab, the Armenian, the Syrian, and the Chaldean.

## Near East clothes sent on the last train to run on Bagdad Railway

Here in this quaint old city, I found refugees from the cities of the north—Bitlis, Marash, Erzerum, Van, and, as, and even as far away as Trebizond. There were Armenians deported by the Turks, and Turks who fled from the Russian invasion. One little Armenian boy had walked all the way from Trebizond. My maid said he came from a very good family as he spoke Turkish like the Vali.

I arrived just as the cold weather was coming, late winter, and after looking over the situation, I sent on my first requisition for clothes, clothes, clothes—in fact a thing for a covering. I had never before seen the people of a city in such nakedness—some having only a shirt, and shoes or stockings were not to be seen. On the last train to run on the Bagdad—Berlin railway, the clothes arrived! If my requisition had been a little later, and these American Near East clothes had missed that train, I believe many people would have died from cold and exposure. Children and

grown people came through the snow in their bare feet for Near East clothes, the first they had received since the deportations.

## Industrial work opened

We soon had the industrial work going full blast, and we clothed the many orphans and gave them beds. We then made clothes for the people of the city, and by the end of February Diarbekir was a different place. We did not start a hospital but carried on a daily clinic where for some time we treated about one hundred a day. We also gave medical care to the orphanages of the city, and in giving relief we did not ask the nationality or religion, ascertaining only that the case was worthy. Later the industrial department introduced the spinning of cotton and weaving, and lace of high quality was made.

## Diarbekir orphanages

As our unit was small, we did not operate Near East orphanages, but helped to aid and organize the orphanages of the Syrians, Chaldeans, Armenians, etc. Under the new plan, however, the Near East will probably take over the care of the Armenian orphanage.

From the first of last March, Miss Emily Wade and I were the only Near East workers in Diarbekir, and we had a very busy time indeed! At present Miss Wade is carrying on the work alone and has agreed to stay during the coming winter at the request of the people of the city and the surrounding villages.

## The picturesque costumes of the people.

In Diarbekir one sees the Arabs, riding into the city on beautiful horses, inlaid daggers flashing in their belts, wearing the flowing "abba" for a gown, and the characteristic "kaffirs" on their heads. The rich Arabs wear "kaffirs" of white silk, tied with ropes of goat hair. Here the Khurds, dressed in white homespun, elaborately embroidered in purple and yellow, their long flowing sleeves tied across their shoulders, come to sell yohourt, cheese, eggs and butter. Their headress is a high white felt hat, bulging at the top.

The Arabs around Diarbekir live the lives of Arabs as we picture them—travelling in tribes, living in tents of black goat hair and skins, wandering south as far as Mosul in the winter and as far north as Diarbekir in the summer with their flocks. They live in one place as long as their flocks find food.

The Chaldeans are an old Assyrian race, and one of the oldest Christian peoples. They have a very good orphanage and take good care of their children.

We had the pleasantest relations with all nationalities. The Governments, both civil and military, were very cordial, and although the city is known as a fanatical Moslem place, we had no trouble whatever—we met every class and every nationality on the friendliest basis. Diarbekir had a Vali of unusually high character, and because of his influence, there was not the extreme bitterness of feeling which existed in many of the surrounding towns—this of course aided us in building up our relief work.

It was planned to close the work July 1st but such a storm of protest arose from the people of all nationalities that Miss Wade agreed to remain through the winter. They wished us to stay—not so much for material aid—but for the influence of an American station upon so many nationalities living together in the city. I have come to believe that this is a great part of our work. Miss Wade will continue the industrial work for the women—especially for the older women who have no other means of support. Business in the city is not beginning to start up.

#### Many changes of governments in Diarbekir

The city has changed hands many times and traces of each conquest can still be seen—Roman, Persian, Arab, Khurdish, etc. A beautiful bridge, built by the Roman spans the Tigris, and ancient Roman roads are still in use. As a city, it seems to me the most unique place I have visited in our Near East area, but perhaps it is also the least comfortable and most primitive—but it brings one in close personal touch with the Turk, the Arab, the Khurd, the Chaldean, the Armenian, and the Syrian.

#### Too soon for the rebuilding of villages

Jesse Smucker did some work in rebuilding the villages near the city and began to teach the people American methods in farming. This was continued to a certain extent this spring, but I think it is regarded as too soon to carry on this work in any large way as conditions are so unsettled. The Khurds come to the villages and steal and rob, and the Christians run to the cities.

#### Repatriation

Considerable repatriation of Turkish refugees has been carried on, returning them to Erzeroum and Van districts. These people were swept south by the Russian invasion. There has, however, been no repatriation of Armenians as it is unsafe for them to travel and permits are not granted.

#### A Call on the Vali

During Biram each representative is supposed to call on the Vali. I was alone at the time, so I took my interpreter and walked to the Serai. I was asked to step into one of the rooms until the Vali was at leisure. I later entered with the chief doctors, and we found the Vali, whom I knew very well personally, dressed in his official uniform richly trimmed with gold lace. He shook hands with me as the only European representative—but the others bowed to him in low

salaams. We drank coffee in silence and awe, and again shaking hands with him, the others salaaming, we filed out.

The Turkish women of Diarbekir live up to their old customs of not attending a public affair with men—hence I was the only woman at a Turkish orphanage entertainment. I was given a seat of honor in the front row, sitting next to a handsome Arab Sheikh whose servant kept us supplied with delicious black coffee.

#### Work with French prisoners.

A number of French prisoners from Ourfa were sent to Diarbekir. They received the food of the Turkish soldier, and we were glad to supplement this with tea, sugar, etc., from our supplies. A French officer was allowed to call at our Near East station in charge of a Turkish guard. At first they sent a guard who understood French but later they found this unnecessary and sent a guard who knew only Turkish. We were able to aid the French prisoners in many ways with clothes and bedding—some of them having only their underclothes.

On the whole, let me state, that the Near East supplies practically clothed the people of Diarbekir and did a wonderful good in many other ways. My six months' stay in that city is one of my pleasantest memories, and there I had my most interesting work.

#### GRADUATION OF NATIVE NURSES AT HARPOOT AMERICAN HOSPITAL

Our hospital family and their friends enjoyed a red-letter day, on the 21st of September, when we held the Commencement exercises for the three young women who are graduating from the Nurses' Training-school. Two of these girls started their course in the hospital five or six years ago, but have been hindered in their actual training, albeit doing nursing most of the time. The third was my assistant for three years, then was the orphanage nurse for two years, in Mrs. Jacobson's time, and has now had a hospital period to end out her course.

#### Graduation exercises under the trees

The place chosen for the exercises was under the trees of the fenced farm next to the hospital where some two hundred and fifty invited guests assembled at 9:30 a.m. Turkish officials and Armenian dignitaries were given the seats of honor, while around the circle were grouped the women who care for the multitude of orphans who fill our hospital beds and frequent our early morning clinics. The nurses, dressed in their neat striped uniforms, marched in and took their seats to the left of the platform.

After a Turkish march played on the organ, an Armenian pastor read a Scripture passage in Turkish, and offered prayer in the same language. The Director of the Unit, Mr. Henry Riggs, then made an address in the same tongue, setting forth the work and purpose of the Near East Relief.

### Native nurses sing "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Then the native nurses sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and Dr. Ward gave the second address, on "Health Conditions of the Vilayet," our Armenian doctor acting as interpreter.

### Turkish Governor makes address

On invitation, the Governor of the Province made an impromptu speech expressing appreciation of the work that is being done here in Harpout by the Near East Relief and deprecating the fate that had befallen to this land. After his speech had been duly applauded, the graduating nurses were presented to the medical director by Miss Farnsworth, their Superintendent. The medical director then asked the nurses to sign "The Florence Nightingale Pledge". The words of this pledge were read by myself in English, Turkish and Armenian, from the book in which the three nurses signed their names. The hospital pins, fastened to bouquets of asters, were then presented to the nurses, and the exercises were closed with the benediction. The diplomas were saved for a later date since the Governor stated that he did not consider our school a recognized institution, and he could not make the diplomas official by allowing us to present them in his presence. As it seemed desirable that he should grace the gathering, we limited ourselves to flowers and the pins.

### Turkish ladies attend exercises

The guests were then invited to the hospital to see everything of interest, and to be served with tea and cakes. The X-Ray machine and the babies in their cribs on the porch perhaps elicited the greatest interest. The nurses demonstrated several ward procedures to the visiting doctors, while the microscopes in the laboratory were set with slides of the different types of malaria. A few Turkish ladies accepted our invitation and occupied a tent at one side of the audience. After the men were out of the way, they were shown the hospital.

### First class was graduated in 1913

The first class to graduate from this hospital received their diplomas in 1913, and one of the trio is still here in charge of the operating room. Now we have three more graduates to assist us as head nurses and to serve the community in district work. There is no greater satisfaction than to train workers who may give special and intelligent service to their people!

### Call for aid from military authorities

"An urgent request comes from the military authorities for aid in nursing the Turkish soldiers in their hospital. It seems desirable to try and accede to their request, and so we are proposing to one of the new graduates to undertake the responsibility of head nurse—in which work we shall aid her in all possible ways.

RUTH A. PARMELEE, M.D.

### MISS RUTH HENRY REPORTS CONDITIONS AT ADANA IMPROVING

The following are extracts from a report just received from Miss Ruth Henry who has succeeded Dr. Dodd as director of the Adana Unit:

"August closes with a much brighter outlook than that indicated at the beginning of the month. After almost five weeks of siege and *continual* firing over and into the city, we find ourselves still in the war zone but with fewer persistent reminders of the fact. We can venture out into the vineyards, formerly the hiding places of the Chettes; we can sleep on the roofs once more without expecting bullets; and the road to Karadash, a seaport about thirty-five miles south of us, has been opened and is still unchallenged. This is the first means of communication which Adana has had with the outside world for weeks. On August 19th, a band of from three to four hundred Chettes was surrounded and captured by the French just on the outskirts of the city, and since that date no shots have been fired into the city although we can still hear the bombing of the villages surrounding Adana. For two days we could see fires in all directions, signifying the burning of both villages and crops.

Five Turkish cannon which had been shelling the city were discovered by a French aeroplane and were captured by a raiding party of Senegalese. The cannon were brought into town as exhibits. Long dreary lines of enemy women and children passed through the streets that day, but they are gradually being sent back to their own quarters. The Near East Relief is administering help to these people in the form of medical care. Some hesitancy about going to our Hospital was shown at first by the Turkish men and women who were found to need X-ray treatment or operations for their shell wounds, but once convinced that it was an AMERICAN hospital, they were all willing to go."

### Calls for help from other villages

"We are getting appeals for help from other towns, and twenty-five cases of milk have been sent to Osmanyne, and two hundred bags of flour to Deurtyol. It is difficult to decide without further investigation just where the needs are greatest, but the entire countryside is in a state of both turmoil and change. The Hadjin people who are refugees in Adana are still organizing an expedition to go to the help of their people and they will be ready to start soon as the French have helped them with arms, and they have equipped themselves with food and horses."

### Returning personnel leave Adana under fire

As soon as the Karadash route was open, Mr. Anderson left, and Dr. Dodd, who had reached Mersine in a French aeroplane and who had been unable to return for nearly a month, came back by the Karadash route. Miss Crane and Mr. and Mrs. Rambo left us on August 11th, and their trip out at daylight, clinging to the running board and trying to hide behind the baggage as the truck was being fired on by the Chettes, would have made a splendid episode for a scenario."



### Dr. Dodd's departure a great loss to the Unit

"Dr. Dodd was back here just a week, closing his accounts and putting the Committee's house in order, and trying to make the dark places in the work light for the new director. The other members of the unit may miss Dr. Dodd's friendly presence at his desk and his sound advice on all hard matters, but only the new director, who was sorely tempted to beg to be taken out with them, can really appreciate the loss. We are glad to have had the contact with such a man and such a woman as Dr. and Mrs. Dodd, and every one in Adana is wishing them the best of their well deserved luck in the future."

### French drop quinine in Tarsus by aeroplane

"The railroad to Mersine, which has not been running since June 18th, is still closed, although we like to exchange rumors as to its near opening. The official report says it is to be running in two weeks, but they fail to stipulate when to begin counting. We were able to send quinine to Mr. Nilson in Tarsus however through the courtesy of the French who dropped it into the city from their aeroplane."

"The present indications look toward an unsettled winter and we are running our industries largely with that in mind. If the refugees cannot get back to their homes, they will have to be helped again, and our work is evolving itself into a cycle: providing work and money to make clothes and shoes to be given away next winter. Over seven hundred men and women are on our payroll now. We are very dubious about increasing our work outside of Adana, and can only report conditions unsettled as a forecast for the future."

### LETTER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL, CAUCASUS UNIT, TO THE NEAR EAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR AT KARS

The following letter was written by Mr. E. A. Yarrow, October 3, 1920, to the Near East District Director at Kars:

"We have been watching events in your District with very close interest and sympathy, and every one of us is proud of the stand that you and your personnel have taken. I cannot commend too highly the position that you and the Misses Anderson have taken in remaining at your posts in this very serious and dangerous crisis, although your contracts had expired and you would have been on your way at this time, if the recent approach of the Turks had not endangered the whole work to which you have so faithfully given your services in the past. Your attitude proves conclusively that you place the work itself above every other consideration."

"In behalf of the Near East Relief, I wish to express the profound gratitude and appreciation of our organization. The same applies to the rest of the personnel who have so loyally supported you. It was especially fortunate that the new workers arrived in time to help you in the overwhelming task which was placed upon you."

"Please read this to all your personnel and make them understand that during these past days they have expressed the real spirit of the Near East Relief and the American people."

### DEATH OF MRS. PEET

We regret to report that Mrs. William W. Peet died in Constantinople, Wednesday morning after an illness of a few months. The funeral was held Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Evangelical Armenian Church, Pera, which was hardly large enough to hold all who attended. Among those present were the Armenian Patriarch, a representative of the Greek Patriarch, Admiral and Mrs. Bristol, Col. and Mrs. Coombs with many other N.E.R. workers, friends from Robert College and Constantinople College and other foreign and native institutions.

An appropriate address was given by Dr. Gates of Robert College and an appreciation and prayer were offered by the Patriarch.

The NEAR EAST RELIEF joins with a multitude of friends in expressing deep sympathy with Dr. Peet, Chairman of our Administrative Committee.

### PERSONAL NOTES

Mr. F. E. Shearer is in Constantinople on his way to New York to interest the Russian Society in raising funds for general relief work in Tiflis.

Dr. Mark H. Ward and Mrs. Ward are in Constantinople. They have been with the Harpout Near East Unit over a year.

Mr. Ernest Riggs has arrived in Constantinople. Mr. Riggs has been sent out by the New York office to standardize the orphanage work of the Near East in the Caucasus, Turkey and Syria.

Colonel Coombs is leaving this week for a trip to the interior stations. Miss Ann Sproule is to accompany him as secretary.

Miss Edith Cold gave a very interesting talk concerning her experiences in Hadjin at the rue Telegraph Personnel House on Tuesday.

Dr. C. W. Strowger is to leave shortly to investigate conditions on the Island of Marmora. Reports have been received that relief work is necessary at some of the little fishing villages.

Miss Fanny Strowger, Miss Emily Passmore, and Miss L. F. Priest have been in Constantinople this week on business for the Ismid Unit.

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## MRS. W. W. PEET

Mrs. William W. Peet, the wife of Dr. Peet, Chairman of the Near East Administrative Committee, passed away on October 20th, at the Bible House Apartment. The funeral was held on Thursday afternoon at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Pera, which was crowded to the doors. Representatives of Robert College, Constantinople College, American Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., the American Bible Society the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Armenian Red Cross the Near East Relief, and many other organizations were present. In the death of Mrs. Peet, each of these organizations has lost a friend and worker. The American High Commissioner, Admiral Bristol, and Mrs. Bristol were present, also the Armenian Patriarch, and the Central Armenian Committees. The Armenian Boy Scouts served as a guard of honor, and Armenian girl orphans carried flowers.

Rev. F. W. MacCallum, D.D., was the presiding officer, and led the devotional service. Impressive addresses were made by President Gates of Robert College, and His Holiness Zaven, the Armenian Patriarch. The note of triumph prevailed, as Mrs. Peet desired, over any feeling of sadness. Mrs. H. H. Barnum sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought," and Professor Estes of Robert College presided at the organ. The pall-bearers were Rev. J. P. McNaughton, D.D., Rev. F. F. Goodsell, Rev. Hovsep Djedjizian, Professor H. H. Barnum, Mr. L. R. Fowle, and Mr. Z. D. S. Papazian. Internment was at the Ferikety cemetery.

Mrs. Martha Hamilton Peet was born at Hunter's Point, Brooklyn, N.Y., August 18, 1856, and was married to Mr. W. W. Peet, August 11th, 1881. On September 1st, 1881, an impressive commissioning service was held in Park Street Church, Boston, when the Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Gates and Miss Etta C. Doane, later Mrs. E. D. Marden, were commissioned by the American Board. Mr. and Mrs. Peet sailed the same day for Turkey. Ever since they have been stationed in Constantinople. On the breaking of diplomatic relations between America and Turkey, in 1917, Dr. and Mrs. Peet left for America, returning at the earliest opportunity in January, 1919. On arriving here, Mrs. Peet plunged into relief work with all her energy, and was very quickly connected officially with a large number of enterprises, being of great assistance to each.

Wherever they lived, during these nearly forty years, whether in Scutari or Boyadjikeny or Stamboul, Mrs. Peet has endeared herself to the circle of friends and acquaintances around her. Their only son, William H. Peet, with his wife lives in Topeka, Kansas.

## HARPOOT'S LARGE FAMILY OF NEAR EAST CHILDREN

*Dr. Mark H. Ward's Story of the Work*

When the Near East Relief Unit arrived in Harpoot a year and a half ago, hundreds of abandoned orphan children were living in the streets of villages, travelling from one town to another, begging their food, and living the lives of little wanderers. As soon as the news spread across the plains and up into the mountains that the Americans had come, hundreds and even thousands of children flocked to our orphanage doors. All were in rags and poorly nourished, and many were even stupefied by the hardships they had endured. They looked like little old men and women carrying the burden of the world on their shoulders. These Armenian children have been gathered together into our Near East orphanages and we now have a family of something over four thousand five hundred in the Harpoot region alone.

### Children Learning to Play

At first it was almost impossible to make these children smile and none of them knew how to play. After several months of good food and care in the Near East orphanages, it was impossible to recognise in their fat round faces the tired little old men and women who came to our doors. A year ago they had no heart to play or even sing. Now we receive hearty responses when we lead them in games or singing, and they are beginning to invent games of their own which shows they are again becoming just happy, healthy children. This summer they built little mud houses with doors and windows, in the gardens attached to the orphanages, and the boys built arabas (carriages) with which to carry food. The girls began to show interest in making dolls' clothes. But even now their few dolls are stowed away to be brought out only on special occasions — they are so dearly treasured. In the convalescent home, the dozen dolls which have been given to the children spend their time strung up along the ceiling of the matron's room where no harm will reach them. The little owners make trips to look at them, but a doll is such a treasure that they are afraid to play with it for fear it will be broken. Although we are short of beds, dishes, extra clothes, toys, picture books, and everything dear to the heart of the average child at home, our children are happy. The Near East supplies sent by the American people have made a home for four thousand five hundred wandering children in the Harpoot region.

### **Harpoot's Special Homes**

We have thirty eight institutions, and I would like to tell you a little of the special groups. There is a nursery where we have fifteen mothers with their babies. We have an old ladies' home where we care for thirty old ladies, unable to work, and without relatives to support them. We have picked them from the streets or from old ruined houses where they have been trying to exist. Our Rescue Home for Girls cares for about two hundred and fifty girls who have fled from their Turkish masters. We have protected them in the orphanage buildings and they are now allowed to leave the compound. In several instances, their husbands have tried by force and through the courts to get these girls back but we are thankful to say that so far we have been able to keep the girls who have come to us for aid. We have only made a slight impression on this problem as there are hundreds still in Turkish homes, scattered among the Turkish villages and among the Kurds in the mountains. It has not been possible on account of political conditions to go to their rescue. In one case a girl was summoned to the court by her former Turkish husband and he tried to prove that she was a Turkish woman. Failing in this, he tried to kidnap her in the streets but she was rescued by the police, and we have been able to keep her safely since that time.

### **The Older Boys**

There is an orphanage especially for the big boys, all of whom are in trades of some kind—in the carpenter shop, the shoe shop, the tin shop, the iron shop, the tailor shop, and in the spinning and weaving factories. These shops, although large, are only able to supply the demands of our own children as we have practically a small city on our hands. During the winter months, these boys are going to night school where at least they learn how to read and write Armenian and study necessary arithmetic.

### **Home for Feeble-minded Children**

Our brightest and pleasantest building is filled with children who are not normal. These are the children who were not strong enough to withstand and throw off the effects of the hardships and terrors of the war. Here we try to teach them to make rag rugs, spinning and knitting and weaving. This orphanage has only been in operation six months but already we see a great improvement in some of the children, and they are much more contented than when associating with the normal children. The orphanage has a pleasant garden and we try to make the place as attractive as possible as we feel that better surroundings will aid in bringing them back to a normal state.

### **Home for Twenty-five Blind Children**

The equipment from the former German School for the Blind in Malatia has been moved to Harpoot, and with the aid of its former teachers, we have opened an orphanage for the blind. We hope that friends in America will give funds to put this school on a permanent basis as the condition of the blind in our region is very pitiful. Because of the many

eye diseases of the east, the percentage of blindness is much higher than at home. In one village we found a man totally blind, and although physically well and strong, the only work he could secure in his village was turning the hand threshing machine during the threshing season in the autumn. The rest of the year he is forced to beg.

### **Fighting Tuberculosis**

We have a Tuberculosis Home where those in advanced tubercular stages are isolated from the others. There are also two tuberculosis sanitoriums—one for the boys and one for the women and little children. There are nearly sixty-eight patients in these institutions. They receive nourishing food, are made to live out of doors, sleeping on the roofs or in tents, and the orphans have open air school. The good food and care have produced splendid results. Many of these cases followed the influenza epidemic of last winter which was very severe in form and produced a tubercular state in the undernourished condition of the people. However, even in normal times, tuberculosis is prevalent among the country people. Their mud-built huts have dirt floors, and they have the habit of sealing up these huts for the winter, filling up the cracks, and doing everything possible to keep out the least trace of fresh air. Cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and bones are as prevalent in the country regions of Harpoot as in the poorer quarters of a crowded city at home. The tuberculosis sanitoriums were started by Miss Lila Downer who did splendid work while connected with the Harpoot Unit. The money for this work has been given by the Smith College Unit.

### **The Home for Crippled Children**

We find that the life in the ordinary orphanages is too strenuous for the little cripples and we therefore assigned a house for their care. We have ten patients at present and they are given extra nourishment—and this orphanage has one unique feature—each child has a bed of his own.

In addition to the special institutions mentioned above we also have an infirmary for the orphans, a scabies hospital, a home for the treating of girls escaping from harems, and the many buildings filled with children who lead the regular orphanage life.

### **Life in the Regular Orphanage**

Each orphanage has about one hundred children under the direct supervision of a native mother and a big sister, generally a young girl who is a graduate of the American school. This girl is usually able to read and write and she aids with the records and correspondence of the institution. The planning, the supervision, the securing of food, the educational system, etc., are carried on by the American Near East personnel, and the Near East Relief assumes the entire expense of the Harpoot work.

We keep the older boys and girls separate, but many of the younger children are family groups with older girls to help in the care of the little children, do their washing and



the cooking of their food. Older boys bring supplies, work in the garden, chop wood, and protect the orphans.

This summer we started play grounds in a small way, and the school teachers assisted in helping out in vacation schools where the children were taught weaving of mats, sewing, and were given some courses in nature study. Of course the clothes on which they sewed were for themselves to wear during the winter, and the mats will be used in the schoolrooms this winter to cover the floor where the children sit.

#### Our Near East Educational System

With nearly five thousand children, the educational problem of Harpoot is equivalent to that of a small city at home—with the exception, however, that the Near East Relief represents the mothers and families of the children and also the School Board. Hence we have less friction in Harpoot than at home. We need no truant officer—the children above school age run away from their work to go to school. Every child under fifteen years of age is required to go to school full time as we feel that each child should be able to read and write the Armenian language. Even among the older children there are many who have never been in school and many who have forgotten the little they learned before the war. In trying to establish a school age, we find that many children suddenly remember that they are much younger than the age they first gave us—they are so anxious to be allowed to attend school. We therefore often decide the age ourselves as birth dates have not been kept and even mothers are not sure of a child's age.

#### Writing on the Wall

We have about eighty school teachers, all of them having the equivalent of a high school education, although many have not had special training for teaching. Although our equipment is meagre, we feel that the money spent on educational work is money well spent. Each teacher has at least thirty children in a class—but there are not enough slates to go around, and one book is used by four children. However with the use of blackboards and by allowing the children to write on the white walls of the orphanages, they are able to learn a great deal. Several of the schoolrooms serve as bedrooms at night and even as dining rooms by day in addition to their service for educational purposes. We hope this winter to have a supply of wood large enough to furnish each schoolroom with a stove and one other stove in each orphanage. Last year, owing to lack of wood, the schools were closed for six weeks and many children had to stay in bed to keep warm. Orders for school supplies have been sent in, and the Near East is trying to put more emphasis on educational work.

#### The Feeding of Harpoot's big Near East Family

Besides bread, a regular ration of soup or stew is served twice a day. Of course, like Heinz, we have nearly fifty-seven varieties of soup, and each has a flavor of its own, but even then the children grow weary of these fifty-seven varieties.

In the summer thousand of oaks of onions, dried apricots, beans, chick peas, nuts, quantities of squash, dried egg plant, and all the vegetables we are able to secure, are stored for the winter to make the ingredients of the soups and stews. Last winter one hundred and fifty cows were butchered and stored away in galvanized vats so that a meat soup or stew was served once or twice a week. One American, Mrs. A. A. Burt, who has had considerable experience in the Caucasus, has spent the summer buying, preparing, and storing the food necessary for the winter. In this area, the roads are closed during the winter and food cannot be secured from the arms. It is the custom of the country therefore to prepare the winter food in the summer.

#### Partial Failure of Crops this Year

Due to a partial failure of the crops this year, the prices of food are twenty-five percent higher than last year, and this will cause even more suffering during the coming winter throughout our province. The irregular mail and stoppage of communication with the outside world are affecting our remittances from America to individual families and this will also make conditions worse. Business in the city is poor as there is no way of importing or exporting goods and therefore trade is entirely local. The Near East no doubt will be required to give even more aid during the coming winter.

#### Children still Begging for a Home in our Orphanages

A steady stream of children has been coming to the orphanages even during the summer months and many are coming from long distances, some having been forcibly driven from their Turkish homes because of a sickly or weak condition and inability to work for their masters. A few are brought to us by the mother who asks us to take the youngest child while she goes out to work to support the others. Constantly the children are locating their brothers and sisters and they beg us to bring them to the orphanages. Such requests are very hard to refuse. Saving the remnants of these old Armenian families is very important work as the Near East cannot make up to the children the loss of their brothers and sisters and families.

#### Many Relatives in their Fairyland "America"

We find that many of our orphans have relatives in America, and we realize that if we can support the children until the way is open, money will be sent for their expenses to join those relatives. In many cases, these little children only know that their father or their older brothers and uncles are in that fairyland, "America." America is truly the fairyland of the Armenian children—they talk of it, dream of going there, and the American children have really been their fairies. One of the most important pieces of work being done by the Near East Relief is the finding of American relatives for the children. The orphanage record books, giving the names of relatives in Turkey or America, lists of children with relatives in America, which the Orphanage Department has forwarded, and the Inquiry and Relief Department, have played a large part in aiding us in relief work. The money comes

back to us from American relatives through the Individual Remittance Department, and we have been able to connect families who have not heard from each other for five or six years. The Harpoot relatives then receive money from American relatives, and only a worker on the spot knows what these remittances mean in many cases.

### Need of Equipment

In equipping the orphanages, we could not supply towels and many articles which we consider necessary at home—but we at least escape the problem of spreading trachoma by towels. However we prefer towels if the supply could be large enough for separate towels for each child. Each orphan has a wooden spoon and a bowl of glazed earthenware resembling our flower pot—this is the table equipment. Soup is cooked in a huge vat. In summer the children go to a fountain for a bath and wash their own clothes. Last winter in the cold weather we managed to send them to the Turkish bath but this is very expensive as one bath for so many children costs over two hundred dollars. Furnishing soap is a big problem as native soap is very expensive. When soap cannot be obtained, we use a native clay.

### Only Nineteen Americans doing Harpoot's Vast Work

Nineteen Americans, with the splendid cooperation of the Armenians, are carrying on this vast amount of work at the present time. Two doctors and three nurses make up the American medical staff—Dr. Ruth A. Parmelee and myself, Miss L. E. Morgan, Miss M. E. MacLellan, and Miss A. E. Bury. We are ably assisted, however, by Dr. Krikor Yarmumian, a graduate of the American College at Beirut. Miss Isabelle Harley is superintendent of schools and education, Miss Ruth S. Woodis succeeded Mrs. Foley in taking charge of the distribution of food and clothing to the orphanages, Miss Small succeeded Mr. Foley in the overseeing of shops for the making of supplies, Mrs. Airgood, a Y. W. C. A. worker is in charge of the Rescue Home Work, Mrs. A. A. Burt runs the food relief, Miss Mary Riggs receives new applications to the orphanages, Mr. Paul Airgood has charge of transportation, and Mr. Fuller has charge of supplies. Miss Miriam A. Bailey has just joined the Unit and has charge of office work and the inspection of orphanages, and Mr. E. R. Applegate, another new member, will be in charge of accounts. Miss Rebecca Parker is on her way to Harpoot and will be one more to aid our already overworked staff. Mr. Henry H. Riggs is director of the whole unit and has its many problems to solve. The above mentioned Americans are located in Harpoot, and each one is doing a splendid work. Mr. Knapp and Miss Murdock are carrying on the entire work in Arabkir. Miss Esther Greene and Miss Alice Moore had entire charge of the work in Malatia last year but owing to the epidemic of malaria there, we thought it best to move the work to Harpoot. During their stay in Malatia, these two workers organized orphanages and did splendid relief work. We are training natives to fill our places but I feel that in a region like Harpoot, American personnel will be necessary as long as our relief work continues.

### NOTICE TO PERSONNEL WEARING U. S. ARMY UNIFORM

The following notice has been issued by the American Consul, Constantinople:

It shall be unlawful for any person not an officer or enlisted man of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, to wear the duly prescribed uniform of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, or any distinctive part of such uniform, or a uniform any part of which is similar to a distinctive part of the duly prescribed uniform of the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps."

"Any person who offends against the provisions of this section shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$300, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both such fine and imprisonment."

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Mrs. Mark H. Ward, of the Harpoot Unit, Mrs. Robert Stapleton, of the Trebizond Unit, and Lt. F. E. Shearer, of the Caucasus Unit, sailed Wednesday for America.

#### Arrival of New Personnel

Clarence T. Ellis, Washington, D.C. Field clerk with U. S. Army and seven months secretary to Colonel Haskell in Tiflis Near East Relief work. Mr. Ellis is returning for work in the Caucasus and is accompanied by Mrs. Ellis.

Charles T. White, New York City. Graduate of Princeton University, Class of 1918, Accountant, National City Bank of New York. Mr. White has been assigned as assistant to Mr. Burdick in auditing and installing the new bookkeeping system.

Pauline Jordan, Welchville, Maine. Red Cross Nurse, Teachers' College, Columbia University and New York Hospital Training School for Nurses. Miss Jordan has been connected with relief work in Italy, and has had four years' experience as a Red Cross nurse in France. Miss Jordan sailed Monday to join the Unit in the Caucasus.

Margaret Kinne, Ovid, Seneca Co., N. Y. Graduate of Presbyterian Hospital school. Miss Kinne was seven months with the Red Cross in Siberia, and has been head nurse in the operating room of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

Annette L. Munro, Newton, Mass. Graduate Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston. Miss Munro has been one year with U. S. Army in France and six months with the Red Cross in Poland. She has made a specialty of typhus and surgical work. Miss Munro sailed Monday for the Caucasus.

Miss Sybil Smith, formerly of the Constantinople Unit, was married early in October to Captain Morris, at her home in Dorchester, England.

Miss Dorothea Chambers, who had charge of the Acorne Shop, left Constantinople Tuesday to join the Y.W.C.A. in Adana.

Miss Josephine Huse sailed Tuesday to join the Beirut Unit.



# Near East Relief

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25 Rue Taxim, Pera, Constantinople.

November 6, 1920

## NEAR EAST HOSPITAL FOR TUBERCULAR CHILDREN, YEDI KOULÉ, CONSTANTINOPLE

Just outside the old city walls, at Yedi Koulé, is located the Near East Hospital for tubercular children. This hospital was officially opened on July 1st, and was planned for sixty beds, but the need has been so great that during summer months the porches have been filled with extra beds until ninety children have been accommodated at one time.

During the summer and autumn months, the children have practically lived in the open air—eating their meals on the wide verandas, sleeping on the open porches, and playing in the gardens. Under this treatment many little thin bodies and faces have been transformed into healthy plump bodies and round smiling faces. Children who knew only dirty narrow streets and crowded rooms have had an opportunity for the first time to romp in a country garden, to eat nourishing well cooked food, to enjoy hot baths, and to sleep in little clean white beds at night in the fresh air.

On a trip through the wards and sleeping porches at night, one will see rows of dark towseled heads in the little white beds, and each face has a happy contented expression. You can hear sleepy "good nights" from three or four different nationalities. In the daytime these children have a glorious time building playhouses in the garden or weaving baskets on the porches.

The buildings were erected through the generosity of a wealthy Greek merchant of Constantinople, Mr. Mavrocordato, as a tubercular sanitarium for the Greek community of the city. During the war these buildings were used as a barracks and the general condition of the place suffered greatly. The Greek Committee offered the buildings to the Near East Relief for a term of two years if the Near East Relief would make the necessary repairs during that time. This generous offer was gladly accepted, and the money given by the Canadian people to the Near East Relief has been used to finance the undertaking.

Miss E. M. Wood is in charge of the hospital and under her supervision the buildings were speedily repaired, equipment secured, and the hospital made ready for the little patients. The work is growing rapidly. The July report showed an average of fifty-four patients, the August report eighty-four, and September ninety. Twenty-four patients were pronounced cured in September and were discharged—but as soon as one bed is empty, another appeal comes from some tired weak little boy or girl for admittance.

Only the workers who have tried to plan for the care of undernourished tubercular children in the past know what this hospital means. It is one of the most important pieces of work of the Near East Relief in Constantinople, and Miss Wood is to be congratulated upon the success of the work.

For the past five months, the British hospital has given us four free beds in their children's ward. This included operations, plaster dressings and laboratory work. These beds have been constantly filled. The Near East Relief wishes to extend hearty thanks for this cooperation.

## A CALL FOR HELP AT BROUSA

The following extract is from the Armenian Daily, *Joghovourti Tzain* of November 3, 1920:

"Bishop Sumpat has informed the Armenian Patriarchate that 12,250 monthly are necessary to meet the need of the refugees in Brousa. The Bishop has submitted the present situation to the attention of the Near East Relief representative in Brousa who has promised to render all possible assistance. The Patriarchate is unable, in any way, to render any assistance to the refugees as the income of the Economic Council is hardly enough to meet the requirements of the orphanages. Bishop Sumpat has explained in detail the situation to the Near East Relief in Brousa."

## Extract from Brousa Near East Report for October

"Refugees have brought us again to sheer tragedy. Fifteen hundred of them have arrived from beyond the Greek lines, many of them without bedding and with only the clothes they are wearing. One family had no underclothes because it was washday when the exile began. One girl when asked what she had brought, answered 'only my soul.' The ration of bread from the Greek army is about to cease, leaving a most critical problem and no money on hand to solve it. We have given 550 blankets to persons found sleeping on boards, and we have distributed 200 arshins of cotton, 300 of flannel, and 500 garments. We are giving a can of American evaporated milk weekly for each of the eighty odd refugee babies, one of whom was born on the road to Brousa. One little girl arrived without her parents who had been turned back, and was fortunate in finding 'THE AMERICANS' for no one else claimed her.

The clothes given out by us, mostly for children, had been made by the poor women to whom we gave 'Industrial Relief'. We have also given 300 garments to refugee Turks and 300 garments to Greeks in the villages of Demirdeshe, Kalesin, Tepejik, and Sige. In each case we had lists made

of the fatherless and the most unfortunate by the local notables. The condition of the poor children outside the orphanages is a sad contrast to the condition of those for whom we are caring."

#### The Near East Needs Money to Meet this Call

The Near East needs money to meet this refugee problem of Brousa. At present every available fund is assigned for special work and we are handicapped by not having money to cover the need. However our Brousa workers are doing everything in their power to help.

#### A CALL FOR HELP FROM THE GREEK REFUGEES, BATOUM, ANSWERED BY THE NEAR EAST

The following letter was sent to Mr. E. A. Yarrow, Director General of the Caucasus Near East Relief Unit. Mr. Yarrow at once ordered additional workers to Batoum, soup kitchens were enlarged, medical aid was given, and the Near East workers have done everything in their power to expedite the loading of the refugee ships for Greece—but still the refugees are entering Batoum from Kars and other regions where it is unsafe for them to remain.

#### Letter from the Refugees to Near East.

"To His Excellency, the Representative of the Near East Relief, Captain Yarrow:

Four months ago the Greek refugees, now in Batoum, who came from different parts of the Caucasus, consisting of 5,600 souls, with great sorrow make the following appeal to your Excellency:

Your Excellency, we who are now here as refugees, came to Batoum in order to go to our own dear Greece, the reason being that we could no longer live safely in the Province of Soukhoum. We left our homes and our belongings behind us. We are here in Batoum with inadequate clothing, many of us are sick, and winter is approaching and the heavy rainstorms.

We therefore most humbly beg your Excellency to give your time and attention to our pitiful condition."

The above letter is signed by a list of Greek refugees in Batoum.

An extract of a letter, dated October 29th, from Mr. E. A. Rambo, one of the Near East workers in Batoum, is as follows: "We helped load a ship of refugees yesterday. . . . I believe that the exodus is gaining ground—or impetus. A small ship with 900 Greek refugees was sent out October 12th, a larger one left yesterday, supposed to take 2,500 but I hear they crowded on more. Larger ships are expected to take the refugees now coming from Kars—about 8,000. This will not reduce our numbers in barracks, but will clear the way for the final evacuation. We hope to get that finished within a few weeks—by the end of November at least. I intended to

write an account of our work to send today but I had to help load a ship and had no time for writing."

The Near East doctor has been working night and day with the sick refugees, and as Mr. Rambo states, the workers have little time to leave their work even to write an account of it.

#### LETTER OF THANKS WRITTEN BY FRENCH SOLDIER

G. H. Q. French Army Occupation Corps,  
Constantinople,  
October 24, 1920

To Managing Director Near East Relief:

"Sir:

I beg to submit the copy of the summary of a letter written by a French warrant officer, prisoner of war in Diarbekir. I think it will please you to know the testimony of the gratitude of our prisoner soldiers towards the benevolent relief work of the Near East Relief. . . ."

The letter of the prisoner is as follows:

"I dwell in Diarbekir, in the military hospital, where I am well treated and enjoy a great liberty. I am permitted to visit the Americans who are here to help the unfortunate orphans. Therefore, I must tell you, my most beloved parents, that the Americans have been great benefactors for me. I, personally, will remember for a long time the favors that these sympathetic people have expressed in my respect. It is from the bottom of my heart that I express my gratefulness. I also have in my soul the joy of the faithful friendship and the self-sacrifice of the Americans in Ourfa. They transformed our darkest days into happy days.

About a month ago I lived in Ourfa, and the heart of the American, Miss Holmes, was full of kindness and generosity for me. I passed a happy sojourn with her, and her house was like my home. Fortunately Providence has put in my way such people for whom I have a deep and respectful esteem.

As for you, my dearest parents, I never doubt even a single moment in what anxiety you live, since the months of (censored). Probably you have been able to receive news from the French Commandant about me. I wish with all my heart that it is so.

Owing to the kindness of the Americans in Ourfa and at Diarbekir, I am as well taken care of as is possible. We find in them generous kindness and energy."

(Signed) Adjutant JOVEUX

The above letter left Diarbekir September 11th, 1920. Dr. Abby Noyes Little and Miss Emily Wade are the Americans located at Diarbekir.

### NEAR EAST HOSPITAL, AINTAB

The Near East Relief Hospital, Aintab, has been doing splendid work during the siege of Aintab. In a report just received the following statistics were given for the year, July 1, 1919—July 1, 1920: 767 patients have been entered and cared for in the indoor department of the hospital. 12,705 patients have been treated at the clinic, and 20,234 prescriptions have been filled. 309 operations have been performed, 39 of these being gun shot and shell wound cases. Nationalities treated represented Armenians, French, Algerians, Senegalese, Congolese, Turks, Arabs, and Kurds. In April the fighting at Aintab made regular clinics impossible, and adequate records were not kept. In May and June the clinical work was done by volunteer workers from among the Armenian physicians of the city. To these volunteer workers, especially to Drs. Kalfayan and Hadidian, the Aintab Near East Relief wishes to extend its cordial thanks.

### MISS LILLA DOWNER'S WORK IN HARPOOT

Through an error, it was published in the paper last week that Miss Lilla Downer was the founder of the tuberculosis sanitarium in Harpoot. We wish to correct this mistake. Miss Downer started the home for feeble minded children which is the first of its kind in Turkey. Miss Downer had experience in this work in Vineland, New Jersey, and was therefore well fitted to establish this very necessary branch of the Harpoot work. A bright, pleasant house with a garden was chosen, and the children in the Harpoot orphanages, who were not in a condition mentally to hold their own with the healthy normal children, were placed in this home. Here they are taught spinning, weaving, and knitting, and are given such school work as their mentality will allow. The experiment has been a great success and many of the children are greatly improved. The Harpoot workers hope that friends in America will give funds to put this home on a permanent basis. The segregation of these cases has proved not only beneficial to the children in this home but it has been an aid to the school work of the other orphanages, and the Harpoot Unit recommends the plan for any unit with a large group of children.

### CONSTANTINOPLE ORPHANAGES

September has been a busy and interesting month among the orphanages. The Armenian Central Committee has opened the big new Central Orphanage for boys at Kooleti, on the other side of the Bosphorus, where from 1000 to 1200 boys will be accommodated, and where it will be possible to concentrate on education and industrial training at a minimum cost. As a result, most of the boys under the supervision of the Central Committee have been removed to their new quarters, with the exception of the two orphanages of

Essayan and Narlie Kapou. These two orphanages with able and enthusiastic directors, will be continued at neighbourhood expense. The girls, who have always fared poorly in comparison with the housing of the boys, are being transferred to the houses left vacant. Near East trucks have been a big factor in facilitating the moving process.

Lessons have begun in the orphanages. There is a decided need for a regular, standardized method of education, which is being inadequately met. We are looking forward to Mr. Riggs to solve this problem.

While the Near East Trachoma Hospital is in the process of organization, the Armenians and Greeks have made excellent temporary arrangements of their own. The Greeks have established isolation quarters at Prinkipo, for their boys suffering from trachoma and have opened a trachoma orphanage for girls at Ayas Pasha. Both of these institutions have a resident doctor in charge and are under the very able supervision of the eye specialist, Dr. Trentos. The Armenian trachoma cases are being cared for in a special boys' orphanage at Yedi Koulé and the girls are at Haskeyu, with Dr. Chahbaz in charge. However, there is pressing need for the American Trachoma Hospital, for the above named institutions are badly crowded.

All the orphanages are full to overflowing. Each new influx of Greek and Armenian refugees from the interior includes a number of orphans, which make demands upon the already over-taxed orphanages. Almost every orphanage has from ten to fifty more inmates than it is supposed to house. With constantly increasing prices for food and clothing, the winter is not a pleasant prospect.

GLEE HASTINGS

### THE WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY MR. ERNEST W. RIGGS FOR THE NEAR EAST

President Ernest W. Riggs, of Euphrates College, Harpoot, who has been appointed Child Welfare Director for the Near East Relief, arrived in Constantinople with his family on October 20th. After studying conditions in the capital for a few weeks, he expects to visit the Beirut area, and in the spring he will visit the Anatolia orphanages.

Mr. and Mrs. George D. White have been appointed to assist Mr. Riggs in the child welfare work. They are now studying conditions in the Caucasus and aiding Mr. Yarrow with orphanage work.

The Child Welfare Director will co-operate with the leaders throughout the Near East in working out the problems of child care with a view to economy and efficiency through co-operation and united study. He will interest himself in the housing, feeding, clothing, education, and general culture of the children as it is being carried on in all three areas of the Near East Relief.



### REUNION OF SIXTEEN LEVIATHAN N.E.R. WORKERS

A very jolly dinner party was given at the Rue Telegraph Personnel House on October 24th for sixteen members of the Near East Unit sailing from New York on the Leviathan, and arriving in Constantinople on the Gloucester Castle early in March, 1919. The Leviathan party consisted of two hundred and fifty workers, and these workers have been scattered over Turkey, Syria, and the Caucasus. Many have returned home, but a large number have re-enlisted and are still in the field doing good work. It was therefore unusually interesting for a number of these workers to meet in Constantinople at dinner and exchange experiences after nineteen months' service. Those attending the dinner were: Miss Bernice Everett, Miss Sabra C. Bradley, Miss Olive Smith, Miss Edith Cold, Miss Esther Green, Miss Margaret White, Miss Isabel Carter, Mrs. Etta D. Marden, Miss Ingeborg Voigt, Mrs. Robert Stapleton, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Dunaway, and Mr. Leon H. Myer. Miss Mabelle Phillips, Mrs. Heizer, and Miss C. A. Ahlers were in Constantinople but were unable to attend. Dr. MacCallum, who signed up the group in New York, was also one of the guests.

Miss Esther Green wrote appropriate little verses for each guest and many funny stories and experiences were told. The dinner was a great success, and it is hoped that there will be many other larger reunions in the future.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

Definite report has been received at the U. S. Embassy, Constantinople, that Mr. Walter G. Harding has been elected President of the United States with a large majority.

The Bacuba Refugee Camp which was located near Bagdad has been moved to Basra for safety. The Near East is aiding in the care of these refugees, and Mr. George J. Frasier is handling Individual Remittances for the refugees and bringing them in closer touch with their American relatives.

The income from the additional tax imposed by the Regie tobacco monopoly on tobacco and cigarette boxes under the name "Families of Martyrs" amounted to Ltq. 1,000,000 in one year. The Turkish Ministry of the Interior decided that Ltq. 700,000 of the above should immediately be assigned for the work of Turkish orphanages.

(From the *Djagadamard*)

Mr. Wilson Fowle reports that the train is again running between Mersine and Tarsus, and it is now possible to send food to Tarsus. This relieves the grave food situation which has existed in that city for some time.

### DR. W. W. PEET LEAVES FOR GENEVA

Dr. W. W. Peet, Chairman of our Administrative Committee, leaves this evening for Geneva where he will meet Mr. Walter George Smith and Mr. H. C. Jaquith representing the New York office to plan for certain phases of our work in the Near East.

### DR. L. O. FOSSUM'S DEATH AT ERIVAN

We regret to report the death of Dr. L. O. Fossum at Erivan, early in October, after an illness of seven days. Dr. Fossum was for some time District Commander of the Near East at Erivan. He was planning to go to Persia for mission work in Kurdistan.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Yoder are in Constantinople on their way to America. Mr. Yoder was connected with the Near East work in Tiflis for over a year and has since then been in Alexandropol.

Mr. Wilson Fowle arrived in Constantinople November 2nd. He has been connected with the Adana Unit for some months.

Miss Bernice Everett, who has had charge of the Rue Telegraph Personnel House, Constantinople, is leaving for Brousa to take charge of the Near East work there. Miss Everett was formerly connected with the Brousa Unit with Miss Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Darbishire, who have had charge of the Near East work in Brousa, are planning to return to America this month.

The New York office has reported the safe arrival of Dr. Blanche Norton, Miss Lilla Downer, and Miss Agnes Mowbray.

The New Near East, the magazine published by our organization in New York, gives a story in the September number of the splendid work of Miss Edith Cold, Miss Alice Clark, Miss Mary Super, and Dr. and Mrs. D. O. Eby in Hadjin.

Put oil your old black bonnet  
With the white star on it,  
And hunt around your unit for some news  
On relief and food conditions,  
Or the changing of positions,  
Or any bits of gossip you may choose.

If in far away Harpoot,  
Your work has taken root,  
And is growing very fast from day to day,  
Remember one good letter  
Will keep it going better;  
This paper travels weekly to the good old U.S.A.

# Near East Relief

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## MEDICAL COMMITTEE OF CONSTANTINOPLE UNIT

During the summer, the work in our Child Welfare Clinics increased rapidly, so in August our force of nurses was increased until we had two American and 13 native nurses. In September, however, with a diminished appropriation, came the need for retrenchment, so in spite of the numbers of children flocking to the clinics, it was necessary to reduce our personnel to one American and eight native nurses.

During the month of transition, it has been impossible to handle as many children as we did in August. Five nurses who have been with us more than a year were given vacations. With six clinics and eight nurses, it is necessary for the nurses to work at several clinics; each nurse therefore can devote not more than three days to visiting. It was considered best to cut the number of clinic days, and concentrate our forces on the home work as far as possible. We have been able to make 1467 visits in the homes—only 300 less than the number made with five additional nurses in August. The rapid improvement of the children who thus have a nurse's care or instruction at home has shown that this side of the work greatly increases the efficacy of the clinic. A large number of mothers also have learned a lesson in preventive medicine and the mothers themselves say that in Haskeny—our poorest section—there are now very few cases of scabies. To those who saw these children in the early days of the clinic, when almost every one was afflicted with this uncomfortable disease and all its dangers of infection, it must be proof that the clinics have been worthwhile.

Much more important has been the task of saving many babies from the serious summer diseases which usually make such inroads in the ranks of children. It has been a marvel to us how the babies have responded to that proper care and feeding, so that our death rate has been far below that of many an American clinic.

We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to our friends at the British Hospital, who have cared so skillfully for many of our babies who would otherwise have perished. There are other hospitals for older children but the British Hospital has supplied our greatest need in giving proper care to infants under two years old. Little Albert, a mere skeleton after three months' illness with no available medical care, several times on the very verge of death in the hospital, has now gone home, rosy and fat, to a happy mother. The mother herself was sick while Albert was in the hospital, but

under proper medical care she is now quite able to keep the baby well. The surgical skill also of Dr. McElroy and her associates has saved the lives and bodies of many of our children, and we as well as the mothers of the babies are very grateful.

E. GRAFF

## LETTER FROM C.F.H. CRATHERN CONCERNING N. E. R. WORK IN MARSOVAN

The following letter, dated October 15, 1920, has been received from Dr. C. F. H. Crathern of the Y.M.C.A.

"Through the courtesy of your representative in Samsoun I have been able to reach Marsovan on my way to Sivas and Harpoot. I have been in Marsovan several days and have had much satisfaction in studying the relief and industrial work which is being carried on in this region under the able leadership of your Director, Dr. George E. White, who is also President of Anatolia College.

Dr. White is a man of great executive and administrative ability and he is assisted by a fine group of young college men and women in whom he inspires the utmost confidence and most loyal allegiance. Team work is characteristic of the whole unit.

Every one seems suited to his own department and is happy in his work. The atmosphere of the place is warm with the most genial friendliness. There are no bosses in the unit. All are associates for service. The eight hour day for relief workers is in vogue in Marsovan, only it is on the unique basis of eight hours in the forenoon and eight hours in the afternoon. I sat down with the workers at breakfast this morning at 6:45 and attended a business meeting at 8:45 this evening.

The educational and industrial work among the 450 boys and girls is well organized. The boys select their own trade such as shoemaking, tailoring, carpentry, bookbinding, etc., to which they give one half day; the other part of the day is spent in acquiring a common school education. They are as eager to be craftsmen as scholars, and go to their tools with as much enthusiasm as they go to their books.

The sewing, embroidery, and domestic service departments of the orphan girls are under able management, and the girls take as much interest in their labors and their studies as the boys.

The hospital in Marsovan is a power for good for miles around. Dr. Marden is never weary of his work although I suspect he must be often weary in it. He is on duty early and late. He takes no vacation and is seldom seen away

from the Hospital Compound. Such work as he is doing is beyond praise.

I congratulate you on having such a Director as Dr. White whose resourcefulness seems unlimited and whose quiet but effective methods of handling men, money, and materials make the unit and relief work of Marsovan so successful."

#### OFFICE CAUCASUS BRANCH N.E.R. IN CONSTANTINOPLE

The headquarters of the Caucasus Branch of the Near East Relief is in Alexandropol. A branch office has been established in Constantinople in the Near East Relief Headquarters, 25 Rue Taxim. Dr. F. W. MacCallum is the representative in Constantinople for the Caucasus Branch, and information concerning the work or personnel can be obtained from him.

#### MENNONITE RELIEF IN SOUTH RUSSIA

There are about 100,000 Mennonites in southern Russia. The area where these people live has been under eighteen different governments in the last two years. Armies have camped on the farms, and the people have been reduced to a very poor condition. The Mennonite Community in America has collected funds to aid the Mennonite Community in Russia, and relief will be sent during the coming winter. The Committee will not confine its activities to Mennonites alone, but will aid all war sufferers in the sections in which they are to work. The work will be along three lines: (1) to open an orphanage, (2) to support beds in the established hospitals, (3) general relief in distribution of clothing and supplies.

Mr. A. Slagel, Mr. C. Cratz, and Mr. O. O. Miller form the present committee, but other workers are expected from America. The Near East cooperates in this work by allowing organization privileges in forwarding of supplies, use of warehouses, and forwarding funds. Constantinople will be the base of supplies for this work.

#### TREBIZOND ORPHANAGES

##### Armenian Orphanage

The boys' branch of the Armenian orphanage now contains about eighty boys, and about eighty boys have left the orphanage to join friends or relatives or to secure positions for themselves.

##### Shoemaking and Tailoring

Naturally the boys have been divided into two classes—those of school age and those who should be learning trades. At first an endeavor was made to put the older boys out as apprentices to established tradesmen. There were few tradesmen of their own race, however, and our experience in placing them with tradesmen of other nationalities has not

been satisfactory. The custom of the land is a long and tedious apprenticeship to learn a trade. So much time has been lost in the forced exile of the last four years that our object has been to hasten the process of making the boys self-supporting. With this idea in mind, we started two trades in our own shops—tailoring and shoemaking. In our shops the boys can learn in one year the work of four years by the other method. They have made not only their own shoes and clothing but have made clothing and shoes for the Greek and Turkish orphanages, as well as for refugees of their own people.

##### Education

The education of the boys has been in the hands of the Armenian Church which has established a national school under the care of a young man appointed by the Armenian Bishop. He is also one of the teachers in the school. The writer has started a number of classes in English for the boys of the school and the workshops, and the boys have been making splendid progress.

It is not difficult to see that much damage has resulted from the four years of exile and living under hardships. The four years loss of school training is really the least of the damage done. The physical and moral sides of the question loom up before us. The hardships endured have dulled the mental faculties but much improvement is noticed after a few months of school training. The scarcity and poor quality of the food during exile, with exposure to disease and cold, carried off the weaker ones but those who survived are not free from the blighting results. Only one death, however, has occurred in the orphanage since its beginning. The Near East Relief clothes and feeds these children—thus looking after their physical welfare.

ROBERT STAPLETON

##### Greek Orphanage

When we opened our Industrial work for women, the women members of the Greek Orphanage Committee came to our aid with such enthusiasm and spent so much of their time with us that they neglected the sewing for their own orphanages, and it seemed only fair to help them out—so we have provided clothing, beds, shoes, etc., for them, and we have a representative on their Committee to co-operate in their industrial work and to present such suggestions as will make for a better home.

Efforts were pushed to reunite families and to send the children back to their native villages whenever possible; so now we are reasonably sure that those who are in the orphanage have neither relatives nor friends to whom they can go. It is fortunate that we were able to move so many since the capacity of our buildings is only about eighty-five, and even now the smaller children sleep two in a bed.

The Greeks provide their own school. Since it is of the district school type, it offers, like all others, only the three "R's." The older boys have been placed as apprentices in various shops in the city and we visit the shops to see that both the employer and the boys are satisfied. There are boys



apprenticed with silversmiths, coppersmiths, confectioners, pharmacists, carpenters, etc. The girls are given as much training as possible in housekeeping, knitting and lacemaking, and on Saturdays they come to the sewing room and take lessons in sewing. Each girl is required to make a complete clothing equipment for one refugee.

### Health and Sanitation

There has been very little illness among the children, though most of them reached us underfed and many with scabies and favus. All serious illnesses are taken at once to the Greek Hospital for treatment. The orphans get at least one hot bath a week, and in the warm weather they take one or two sea baths weekly.

Our American representative and a Greek doctor, also a member of the Committee, look to the sanitation and there has been a decided willingness on the part of the authorities to comply with suggestions, among which are lockers for clothing with numbered shelves, each child having a number; a larger and better laundry, improved hot water supply, and running water for bathing instead of pans.

As may be inferred, the Greeks are most zealous in the care of these orphans, and the Near East Relief is obliged to contribute in no way except clothing, etc.

Every orphanage has its pathetic scenes but occasionally there is something which has a bit of humor in it. Little Cosmos gave us perhaps our best. He is a very small lad of about two and a half years. He was picked up on the streets and sent to the Greek hospital. While there he was claimed by the Armenians and taken to their hospital. Then the Armenians decided that he was a Greek and returned him to the Greek hospital, and from there he was sent to the Greek Orphanage. Try as we might, we could not get him to attempt to talk. At last we decided that he was a mute. At Easter time when the children were given new clothing, Cosmos, along with the others, was being measured. During the process he was much amused with the writer's glasses, and we asked if he would like a pair. Among the languages the interpreter tried out in putting the question was Russian — and presto! Cosmos' tongue was set wagging. Easter Sunday at church his uncle claimed him. The boy had left Russia with his aged grandmother who died shortly after arriving in Trebizond, and Uncle now has the boy.

K. H. GILLESPIE.

### Turkish Orphanage

Active relief work at the Turkish Orphanage was begun in March. At that time the orphanage was in a deplorable state, — finances were low, the children underfed, clothing insufficient, and sanitation almost an unknown quantity. After making a survey of conditions, a monthly sum was granted to the Orphanage by the N.E.R. to enable it to increase the food rations. Then clothing needs were attended to. On the day when the new clothes were ready for distribution, a hot bath was prepared and everyone of the two hundred and nineteen orphans were "steamed" and scrubbed with an

abundance of quicksuds. Their old garments were disinfected, but most were beyond repair and had to be discarded. Since this first clean-up, Thursday of each week has been set aside as bath-day, and Saturday and Sunday as laundry-days. Until a month ago, the N.E.R. has been supplying soap, washing-soda and lime, and the Orphanage has been kept clean and the grounds in a fairly sanitary condition. The dormitories were badly in need of attention, and a thorough renovation and disinfection of beds and bedding was undertaken. Floors and walls were scoured and scraped. Most of this part of the general clean-up was accomplished with the aid of hot water and red pepper, the favorite native exterminator.

The industrial work has been handled entirely by the Turkish Director of the Orphanage. There is a well conducted shoeshop and carpentershop, where the boys are learning these trades, at the same time doing the repairing for the Orphanage. Some of the children have been apprenticed to artisans in the city, two working in the hospital, three in drug-stores, three in tailorsshops, etc. Four stocking-machines have been given to the Orphanage by the Red Crescent and we hope now to be able to make stockings for the winter.

There is a boys' school within the Orphanage, which is very elementary, only reading, writing and simple arithmetic being taught. There is no instruction whatever for the girls, and their time is given almost entirely to housework and caring for the younger children.

Until recently there has been a ten-bed hospital in the Orphanage, but this has been closed, and children needing medical attention are cared for at the Red Crescent Hospital in the city.

During the summer months the number of orphans has decreased about thirty percent, but we expect as winter approaches, those children who have gone to work in the villages will return. The total capacity is stated as being two hundred and fifty, but the buildings and equipment are hardly sufficient to accommodate two hundred. In April the enrollment was the largest, there being two hundred and thirty-eight children. There are now one hundred fifty-seven, twenty-four girls, and one hundred and thirty-three boys.

JESSIE WHITE

### THE ACORNE SHOP

Now is the time to send Christmas presents to America, and the Acorne Shop has a splendid collection of handmade articles, the products of our native workers — lace medallions, handkerchiefs, lace baby caps, lace collars, which can be easily sent through the mails; knitted sweaters in all colors, Angora scarfs, homespun material by the yard, homespun curtains with native embroidery, luncheon sets, embroidered lingerie in up-to-date models, etc. Before buying gifts elsewhere, visit the Acorne Shop and help create a demand for the work of the native women. Orders are taken for any handmade article desired, and if we can create a larger demand for this work, a larger number of needy women can be given employment. We sell at cost.

### ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

The New York office has forwarded the following letter concerning the adoption of children by the personnel:

"The recent arrival in this country of several of our workers bringing with them Armenian children has brought to our attention the fact that our request of last winter, that workers be instructed not to do this, has not been widely understood."

"The immigration authorities make it very difficult for any children under sixteen years of age to enter this country unless accompanied or met by a near relative. The case of Miss Elsie Tanner, who brought with her an eleven year old girl from Arabkir is the only one in which there has not been a delay of from three to five weeks, pending a special dispensation from Washington."

"In case individuals insist upon bringing children with them whom they wish to adopt, they should be instructed to make it perfectly clear to the immigration authorities that this is a purely personal matter and that they, as individuals, and not as relief workers, are adopting the children. They should also have with them papers to show that the child has been transferred to them by some society or individual. In general, however, we prefer to have all workers discouraged from trying to bring to this country children—whether for adoption or education. Where they are bringing children to the children's own relatives, the case is entirely different. May I ask that you make this matter plain to the directors of all Units, as it will save a great deal of trouble to the workers themselves and to the New York office. Of course if we approved of bringing these children to this country for education, the difficulty involved would not be considered, but in general it seems as if it would be better for the children to be brought up in their own country."

### ARRIVAL OF DR. SHERWOOD EDDY

Dr. Sherwood Eddy arrived in Constantinople, November 9th, five days earlier than expected. He held meetings in Robert College, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Today, Saturday, he will meet with the Christian workers of the city, who understand English, at the Dutch Chapel, Pera. Sunday, 14th, it is expected that he will address a gathering in the Gregorian Church of the Holy Trinity, Pera, and a gathering of the Greeks in the Greek Syllagos, Pera, at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Eddy will take charge of the services at Constantinople College at 8 p.m., Sunday. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week there will be meetings in the Bible House Chapel, Stamboul, at 4 o'clock, at which either Dr. Eddy or one of his co-laborers will speak. Monday evening and Tuesday evening meetings have likewise been scheduled for the Friends' Mission in Koum Kapou, Stamboul, at 7:30. At these Stamboul meetings, the addresses will be translated into Turkish, or in some cases Armenian. On Monday there begins a series of four meetings in the Nouveau Théâtre,

Pera, where the addresses of Mr. Eddy will be translated into French. The sessions will be at six o'clock. Dr. Eddy will also have the Sunday evening service at Robert College on November 21st.

### CAUCASUS NEAR EAST PERSONNEL REMAIN AT POSTS TO CARE FOR ORPHANS

A cable has been received from Mr. E. A. Yarrow that the following Caucasus Near East personnel, assigned to districts where the fighting is taking place, have volunteered to remain at their posts to care for the orphans:

E. A. Yarrow,  
Veronica Harris,  
H. B. Barton,  
J. Goodrich,  
Elmer Eckman,  
Milton Brown,  
Robert Ferguson,  
Arthur Hammond,  
Peter Janson,  
Willard Nelson,  
Myrtle Shane,  
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. White,  
Clayton Skinner,  
Elizabeth Thom,  
Walter Richards,  
James Dangerfield,  
Ralph Dissell,  
Charles Peers,  
Annette Monroe,  
Edward Fox,  
Frances Anderson.

Charles McBride,  
Harrison Maynard,  
Olive Gray,  
Raymond Gilman,  
Doctor Hawthorne,  
Alma Fossum,  
Dr. Main Clark,  
Martin Nelson Meeks,  
Florence Myers,  
Charles Grand,  
Cora Beach,  
Caroline Silliman,  
Dr. B. W. Brush,  
Elizabeth Gillespie,  
Leonard Hubbard,  
E. Kimball,  
L. Lester,  
Pauline Jordan,  
Margaret Kinne,  
Elizabeth Anderson,

The above personnel were given their choice to remain or withdraw when Kars fell on October thirtieth.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Mrs. Heizer and Miss Olive Smith left Constantinople on Wednesday morning. Mrs. Heizer is joining her husband in Jerusalem where he is U. S. Consul General. Miss Smith expects to visit Jerusalem and Egypt before sailing for the United States.

Miss Louise Clark, of the Foreign Mission Board, who has been closely connected with the Near East Relief work in Aintab, is in Constantinople attending the Foreign Language School in Scutari.

Dr. Mark H. Ward left Constantinople Monday for Samoun.

Dr. A. N. Little and Miss Edith Cold sailed for Beirut November 10th.

Miss Mary Steel, of the Derindjé Unit, spent the week end in Constantinople.

# Near East Relief

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November 20, 1920

## A MORNING WITH THE CONSTANTINOPLE CASE COMMITTEE OF THE NEAR EAST RELIEF

The morning ferry takes one to Kadi Keuy, or ancient Chalcedon. Here, six centuries before Christ the city had its first settlement and here today the worker from the Near East Relief comes to carry aid to the orphans of the war, that war that "out-Heroded" Herod in the making of orphans.

It is not an orphanage that we come to succor, for the Case Committee is concerned with five thousand half orphans whose fathers were killed in the war and whose mothers have fought and worked and starved to keep the children with them. For these mothers the Case Committee endeavors to render aid—bread, milk for those who are ill or under seven years of age, and one outfit of clothing for each child during the winter.

There are sixty Case Committee children under the Greek Sub-Committee in Kadi Keuy. Listen to the stories of the twenty-two mothers visited in this one morning:

Katy is thirty-eight and the mother of five. Her husband was killed in the war. The girl of fifteen and the boy of fourteen are serving as apprentices, and though they get no pay, the Case Committee does not aid them, as one of the rules is that children to be aided must go to school. (A fund from the Wellesley Alumnae pays school fees for two hundred children a month.) The three children, aged eight, six and three respectively, get bread and milk and clothing from the Committee. The mother by washing earns from three to four liras per week. The nurse of the Medical Committee visits them, and they are getting medical care free from the Greek Polyclinic, as it is another rule of the Case Committee to employ every facility the city affords.

Another family: Here is a woman who has suffered so from the war, the death of her soldier husband, exile and privation, that at thirty-five she is really too old and feeble to work. Her mother, happily made of sterner stuff, keeps the little family together by laundry work. It is a pleasure to aid the old woman and these children with the bread, milk and clothing which mean life and a sort of decency.

Another woman, thirty-eight years of age, has two children, thirteen and eleven, both in school. The little boy of eight died of privation before the Case Committee could save him. The mother now earns two liras a week, but the rent has been raised from two liras a month to seven and a half. Here is a problem in arithmetic enough to daunt the stoutest courage. The bread and clothing given by the Case Committee keep that courage alive.

Fortini has three children of her own, four and two respectively, and a foundling of two has been boarded with her for seven pounds a month—not very discreetly it would seem, for the whole family must live on this amount. She has no time for outside work with two babies in her care. Our bread and milk keep these children alive.

Diamondo, whose name is no index to her possessions, is another woman entrusted with a foundling to board. She is the mother of five children under twelve years of age. The eldest is ill and is cared for by the doctors and nurse, but the other four are in school and all receive aid from the Case Committee.

Photika is the last we can listen to here. She has five children of whom the eldest, a girl, is fourteen and an apprentice in sewing. The next, a boy of twelve, seeks work, but a certain rule refuses him aid if he is not in school. If he chooses to work a little, the money he receives scarcely amounts to the bread and clothing he would get from the Near East Relief.

So we try in a thousand ways in the little homes to repair the ravages of war.

MABELLE C. PHILLIPS

## CONSTANTINOPLE ORPHANAGE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

### Athletics

A physical director has been employed for the Boys' Central Orphanage at Kooilei, and he has organized a basketball team and athletic activities.

### Industries

The shoemaking industry at the Beyerbey industrial School is making rapid strides. About thirty pairs of well made shoes are turned out each day by the boy orphans. The 120 boys work half the day at their cobblers' benches and spend the other half at their ordinary lessons. The product of the school provides all the Armenian orphanages with shoes and in addition the Director is accepting outside orders. He is now filling a large order for the Near East Hospital at Yedi Koule, one for Miss Holt's orphanage at Izmid, and an order for the American Red Cross. Plans are being pushed for inaugurating courses in tailoring and carpentry at the same school. Through the Wellesley Unit, 1200 liras have been given this month for buying tools and raw materials for the carpentry shop. It is surely worth while to give



## NEAR EAST RELIEF

these boys a sound industrial training that will make them independent and self-supporting.

### Winter Clothes

As cold weather comes on, the problem of suitable winter clothes and enough blankets becomes urgent. The children cannot run around in their summer clothes or sleep under one lightweight half-cotton blanket without suffering. We have been able to provide some of the children with warm knitted sweaters that please them beyond words. Luckily for the Near East Orphanage Committee, the Acorne Shop took an inventory of stock this month and discovered a number of warm bright colored sweaters and knitted scarfs which they were able to donate to the girls.

### Bread

During the month all the orphanages have been visited to ascertain the exact number of inmates in each in order to check up carefully on the bread accounts. Each child is allowed one-half kilo a day of American bread. The result of the investigation showed that there is no abuse being made of the bread.

Because the Central Committees, composed of local native members, are now so well organized in Constantinople, it has seemed well to make new arrangements for the Near East Relief orphanage work in the city. The first of each month, each nationality will be allowed to place an order with the Unit Office for certain limited amounts of supplies, including milk, beans, blankets, muslin and ready-made garments. Such a plan places more responsibility upon the native Committees. As long as the Near East Relief is assisting the orphanages, however, the right of inspection and supervision will be retained.

GLEE L. HASTINGS

### REFUGEES AT DERINDJÉ

Besides the work connected with, the Near East Relief Supply Base at Derindjé, the Unit is caring for seven hundred and forty-one refugees. These people fled from the villages near Adabazar, and they have found a temporary refuge in the former hunting places and stables of Sultan Aziz. This old place is located on the seashore near the Near East Relief warehouses, and it has been unoccupied for such a long time that it is almost in a state of ruin. Miss Mary Steel, who has charge of medical supplies at the supply base, is holding a clinic for the sick, and the Near East is supplying food. The refugees leave each day for the mountains where they are busily chopping wood, and carting it to Derindjé with their ox teams. Mr. Hoagland, the Director of Derindjé Unit hopes to send this wood for relief work in Constantinople during the the coming winter, and wood has already been sent to Izmid for relief work there.

### CONSTANTINOPLE REFUGEE CAMPS

More than 3,000 Armenians, who have been driven away from their homes in the war-districts, are existing in five different camps in Constantinople, under conditions that are utterly wretched. Most of the refugees are country people; they have arrived in Constantinople with almost nothing except the clothes on their backs, stupefied and dazed by their misfortunes, and unaccustomed to the ways of the city. The Armenian Central Committee, is doing its best for these people but the demands upon them at the present time far exceed their budget.

Haskey Camp is located in an old Armenian Church, where most of the windows are broken, and where the stone floors are always damp and cold. Five hundred people arrived here about two weeks ago from Cilicia. Of the five hundred, two hundred and fifty-five are women and children, including twenty-five young orphans. There are twenty-four little babies, four of whom were born in the camp. Seventy men have families dependent upon them.

The refugees are hungry most of the time. Every two days the camp receives from the Armenian Central Committee 130 loaves of bread and one case of milk. Bread is given only to the women and children at the rate of one-half loaf for a person each day. The milk is reserved for the babies and the sick. The refugees buy what little food they can and cook it over twig fires. During the days of constant rain and mud, it is hard to find enough twigs to cook even a little rice or a handful of vegetables.

Sanitary conditions are very bad. The refugees sit around, huddled up against the walls—women with dull sad faces, little children blue and pinched with the cold, and too lifeless to cry. The women make an effort to keep clean, but it is hard to wash either bodies or clothes when there is no soap, about one pan or kettle in ten families, and all the water for the camp comes from one well, drawn up in a little tin bucket. At present there are about thirty people sick with absolutely no chance for isolation.

The refugees are barely covered. There is the greatest need for warm clothing, but a still greater necessity for blankets. One family or five sleeps at night on a bare stone floor, under one thin, ragged half-cotton blanket. Three young orphaned sisters share another blanket. With lowered vitality due to cold and lack of adequate nourishment, one shudders to think of the refugees shivering through a cold, wet night.

Conditions are slightly better at the Psamatia Camp, for it has been organized longer, and the buildings are somewhat better. Here too, however, the windows are patched up with boards and sacking, and the children crouch around the little fires trying to warm their hands. Psamatia is a "special feeding camp" where the weakest refugees are sent because one portion of food is furnished each person at noon. This food consists usually of a vegetable soup, half a loaf of bread, and for the babies a little milk. Of the 350 people in this camp, all are women and children with the exception of 16 old decrepit men. There are 35 little babies; water is

heated for their milk in a small samovar; luckily the sick refugees at Psamatia can be isolated for there are six or seven smaller rooms available. In one room, several women are wasting away with tuberculosis; in another are some severe eye cases, including two young blind girls, who have no one in the world to care for them.

Scutari is another special camp for sick refugees. About 560 people are packed together in two old churches, with the attached buildings. At Scutari, blankets are the greatest need. Rags and old sacks filled with straw form a poor bedding for sick women and tiny babies sleeping on stone floors.

463 live in the Beshiktash Camp in a large Turkish house, formerly occupied by a Pasha and his harem. Nothing is given to these refugees excepting a roof over their heads and a little space in which to sleep at night. Some of these refugees have a little money which they hoard and spend in the tiniest installments for rice or bread. All of the grown-ups have tried to find work, but with little success. Women who have been accustomed to a comfortable country life are struggling along, scrubbing and cleaning by the day, in order to keep their children alive. Work, even of the most menial sort, is at a premium in Constantinople now, due to the influx of Russian, Armenian and Greek refugees.

Ortakeuy camp has 730 people located in two buildings; one is the ruin of an old palace, and the other a building tenanted for a long time by Turkish soldiers. The overflow from these two buildings live in a wooden shed, with the walls and floors gaping with holes where the wood has rotted away.

Credit should be given to the Medical Committee of the Near East Relief for the supervision of the camp babies and for medical advice given the adults and children. Dr. Graff and her nurses feel however that that they are immeasurably handicapped by living conditions which make sick babies faster than they can cure them.

The Near East Relief has sent to the Supply Base for blankets for these refugees, and the many bales of old clothes sent from America are to be used in helping to clothe the inmates of the camps for winter. The Near East Relief is sending more milk for the babies, and is working on the problem of more bread. But this is just one of the many calls for help which are coming from all over the country! The Near East Relief is now the sole support of twenty-five thousand orphans in the Caucasus, sixteen thousand in the Anatolia area, and thousands in the Beirut area—not to mention the thousands of refugees who are receiving aid. Winter is approaching which makes the situation doubly serious but we are doing what we can to meet the emergency.

The report concerning the camps was made up by Miss Glee Hastings who is doing the inspecting for the Near East Relief.

## TARSUS NEWS

St. Paul's College at Tarsus was opened on schedule time, Monday, October 6th, amid the roar of cannon and bursting of shells. There are thirty-six day students and one hundred and eight boarders. Of the latter, most are orphans who have been in the Trades School during the summer. In fact, not more than half a dozen are full paying students. Many were able to pay a few liras to help pay for their year's food. The fact gives some idea of the poverty stricken condition of the region. Many little 'ellows have been taken in just to keep them from begging and starving. Lack of equipment is made up by variety in language. Imagine a boy taking Arithmetic in Armenian, Geography in Turkish, Book-keeping in French, and Geometry in English!

The relief work in Tarsus is being carried on by Mrs. Block and Mrs. Nilson. They have a large number of old women knitting stockings, making mats, and doing other similar work to theoretically pay for their "wages." Mrs. Block also has a large number of girls doing fancy work. Only one member of a family may work. In this way the relief is more evenly distributed.

The railroad runs regularly this far and repairs to Adana are being pushed. Food conditions are better and though late, a large part of the cotton crop will be saved.

(From *The Orient*)

## GIRL SCOUT WORK IN CONSTANTINOPLE ORPHANAGES

The Y.W.C.A. is cooperating with the Near East Relief in starting recreational and girl scout work in the Arnaout-keuy Armenian Girls' Orphanage, Constantinople. It is hoped that the work will extend to the other girls' orphanages. Last spring the Boy Scout movement was begun in the boys' orphanages and it has been very successful. Up to this time, however, little has been done for the girls in the way of recreation, and there is a great need for games, music, exercises, drills, etc., to brighten the monotony of orphanage life.

## HOME OPENED FOR RUSSIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN, CONSTANTINOPLE

Mr. O. O. Miller, Director of the Mennonite Relief Unit for South Russia, is unable to forward supplies from Constantinople at the present time. He is therefore cooperating with Mr. Thomas Whittemore, Director of the American Society for Russian Refugee Children, in opening a home in Constantinople for the children of the Russian refugees now in the city.

### NOTICE CONCERNING MAIL TO INTERIOR

First class mail only is to be sent to interior, consisting of official correspondence from Near East to its several directors, personal mail from Americans for personnel in the field, and personnel inter-station correspondence. The mail to the interior is being censored and personnel must limit to their letters to personal matters.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

The lectures of Dr. Sherwood Eddy in the Nouveau Theatre, Pera, Constantinople, are drawing large crowds. Dr. Eddy delivers the lectures in English, and an interpreter translates the lecture, sentence by sentence, into French, as Dr. Eddy speaks. Wednesday night, Dr. Eddy gave an address at the Russian Y.M.C.A. center, Pera.

The Senior Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. and his staff have moved into their new quarters at No. 7, Rue Taksim, Pera, Constantinople, in order to make more space for the winter activities of the Pera association.

Mr. Puzant.Gueuzubuyukian has been appointed Acting Director of the Armenian Central Committee.

The Armenian Girls' Orphanage at Nishan Tash, Constantinople, will move to the big stone building at Kadikuey now occupied by the boys. The Near East Relief trucks will aid in the work of transportation. The boys' orphanage at Kadikuey will temporarily be located in a nearby building, but later it is planned to add another floor to the local community school as a dormitory for the boys. This will be a pleasant change for the girls as the housing at Nishan Tash was very inadequate.

The Armenian Central Committee has rented a building of eighteen rooms, at Arnaoutkeuy, near Constantinople Girls' College. The building is already in use as an industrial orphanage for girls over fourteen years of age. The making of stockings is already begun, and special instruction is to be given in tailoring. These girls are to make the clothes for the boy orphans.

### ARRIVAL OF NEW PERSONNEL

Caldwell, Miss Margie Lin, Bristol, Tenn. Miss Caldwell is a kindergarten worker, has had eight years' experience in welfare work among the children of a milling town and has been connected with welfare and hospital work in France.

Horsford, Miss Constance, Boston, Mass. Miss Horsford has had experience in kindergarten work and general relief work in Italy and Greece. Teacher in the John Winthrop School, Boston.

Pellow, Miss Katherine, Detroit, Mich. Miss Pellow is a Red Cross nurse, and was twenty-one months overseas with the A.E.F. Graduate Harper Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Sutton, Mrs. Dorothy H., Colebrook, Conn. Mrs. Sutton has had thirteen years' experience in kindergarten work, and was one year in France with Y.M.C.A.

Van Toor, Mr. James E., Milwaukee, Wis. University of Wisconsin and Illinois. Mr. Van Toor has had experience as an executive and organizer, and was overseas in the A.E.F.

Ogden, Mr. Lester Ray, Oakland, California. University of California. Mr. Ogden has been a Director of Boys' work in the Y.M.C.A., and has had much experience in Boys' Camp work.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Major J. H. Nicol, who has been Managing Director of the Beirut Branch of the Near East Relief, has returned to his former missionary work in Tripoli. Mr. Bayard Dodge is succeeding Major Nicol as Managing Director for the Beirut Branch of the Near East Relief.

Mr. David Hoagland, Director of the Near East Relief Supply Base at Derindje, is in Constantinople this week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ropert S. Darbishire sailed for the United States on November 14th. They are returning to their home in Shelby City, Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Darbishire have had charge of the Near East Relief work in Brousa.

Miss Marion Weston, who has been connected for some time with the Y.W.C.A. Unit, has sailed for Beirut to take charge of recreational and physical culture work with the Beirut Y.W.C.A.

Mr. and Mrs. William Yoder sailed for the United States, November 14th. They are returning home via Italy and France. Mr. Yoder has been connected with the Near East Relief work in the Caucasus Branch at Tiflis and Alexandropol.

A large party of Americans arrived last Saturday, including the new Near East personnel, Mrs. Henry S. Huntington, coming to visit her son, Professor George H. Huntington of Robert College, Rev. and Mrs. Isely, Miss Jessie Martin, Miss Myrtle Nolan, Miss Elsa Reckman, Miss Lillian Brauer, Miss Pauline Rehder, all for the Mission Language School of Scutari, and Miss Agnes M. Baird, returning to Bulgaria.

Mrs. Wilhelmine Grynbragen and Miss A. Johansen are in Constantinople. Mrs. Grynbragen is hoping to return to Mezireh and Miss Johansen to Harpoot. They are under the Danish Mission Board, and six years ago were connected with orphanage work in the region of Harpoot.

Miss Hazel Vernon, who has been for some time connected with the Constantinople Y.W.C.A. has sailed for Prague, as business secretary for the Prague Unit of the Y.M.C.A.

Miss Maud Harrison and Miss Vida Sanderson, Y.W.C.A. workers have just arrived from the United States. They have both been assigned to Beirut.



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## AMERICAN RELIEF WORK WITH THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN CONSTANTINOPLE

One hundred and thirty five thousand Russian refugees, fleeing from the Bolsheviks, have arrived in Constantinople harbour. The ships were so crowded that many of the people could not lie down and many had to take turns in sitting down to rest. Lack of food, lack of drinking water, lack of sleep, and lack of fuel have caused untold misery. The weather has been cold and a drizzling rain has been falling the greater part of the time. Thousands were on the open decks with no covering in the wet weather. Wounded officers and soldiers of Wrangel's army, princes, princesses, women sick from fatigue, old ladies, babies, children, were huddled together on the closely crowded ships, hungry, thirsty and cold. Add to this the sorrow of leaving their homes and country behind them, the suspense of not knowing where they could go, the worry for relatives who had been separated from them, and one can only wonder that so many kept up their courage.

The writer spent six hours on the refugee ship, the Rion, last Sunday. The ship was so crowded that at times it was almost impossible to reach the railing to watch for a boat — men were standing to allow the women to rest, space was at a premium. A cold rain was falling and the outlook across the sea, dotted with other crowded refugee ships, was enough to discourage one who had not experienced nine days on an overcrowded refugee ship. And yet these people did not seem to complain but quietly waited — helping each other in every possible way.

All nations have been doing their utmost to meet this huge problem. The following is an outline of the American relief work:

On Wednesday, November 17th, at the call of Admiral Bristol, American High Commissioner, a meeting was held of the following representatives of American institutions in Constantinople: U. S. Navy, Commander Barbey; U. S. Army, Colonel Cox; U. S. Department of State, Mr. Belin, U. S. Shipping Board, Mr. Chester; American Red Cross, Major C. C. Davis, Major Clewell, Mr. Milner, Mr. Bridges, Major Ryden; Near East Relief, Dr. McCallum; Constantinople College, Dr. Patrick, Dr. Murray; Robert College, Dr. Watson; Y.M.C.A., Mr. Bristol; Sailors' Y.M.C.A., Mr. Poe; Mennonite Relief Association, Mr. Miller; Russian Relief Association, Mr. Thomas Whittemore; American Board for Foreign Missions, Dr. MacNaughton.

After a full discussion of the Russian refugee situation, it

was decided that a telegram should be sent to the State Department in Washington, outlining the desperate situation and asking for assistance from the U. S. Government and from charitable organizations in America to meet this emergency call, and that the above named American organizations should cooperate in every possible way with the organizations of the other nations in meeting this refugee situation.

Acting on the instructions of Admiral Bristol, Mr. F. L. Belin, Chairman of the Committee, representing American relief and other American organizations in Constantinople, appointed the following as members of the executive committee of the general committee: — Mrs. Mark L. Bristol; Commander H. Bryan, U. S. Navy; Major. C. C. Davis, American Red Cross; Miss. E. F. Gunther, Near East Relief; Mr. O. Miller, Mennonite Relief Association; Mr. Thomas Whittemore, Society for relief work among the orphan children of Russia; Lt. Commander A. Y. Lanphier, Mr. Fred Stem.

The central office for the American relief was established in the U. S. Embassy. The organization is as follows: Chairman of the Committee, Mr. F. L. Belin; in charge of the refugees who have been landed in Constantinople, Miss E. F. Gunther, Near East Relief; in charge of food and equipment, Major C. C. Davis, American Red Cross; in charge of sanitation, inspection and transportation, Commander H. Bryan, U. S. Navy, with Junior Doctor of the U. S. St. Louis as assistant; Liaison Officer with the Russians, Mr. Thomas Whittemore; Liaison Officer with the French, Lt. Commander A. Y. Lanphier; Treasurer, Miss Bertha Carp; Secretary, Miss Rachel Faraggi.

It was decided to establish an inquiry office at the U. S. Embassy to which all lists of names of Russian refugees could be referred and where inquiries could be made by the Russians for relatives, etc. Miss Gunther, of the Near East Relief, agreed to furnish a competent worker. Miss Constance Horsford was appointed and the bureau is now in operation.

It was also decided to request the French to send refugee ships to the Island of Proti where the U. S. Navy, in cooperation with the other American organizations, would support and care for the sick and wounded, clean and disinfect ships, make any necessary improvements in sanitary arrangements possible, re-embark the refugees and return ships to Moda. The French gladly accepted this cooperation.

The U. S. Navy is in charge of the work at Proti and the transportation of supplies. U. S. subchasers and all available Navy boats have been running night and day transporting fresh water and the supplies of the relief organizations to the refugee ships, and moving refugees to better quarters. The U. S. Navy officers have superintended the

work, and special credit should be given to them and to the work of the U. S. sailors. Mrs. Mark L. Bristol has established a canteen at the Stamboul station which is doing splendid work in giving food to the refugees on their way to San Stefano. The Turkish Red Crescent donated the use of five soup kitchens for the soup kitchen work.

The Near East Relief in cooperation with the U. S. Navy moved the children from the crowded refugee ship "Rion" to the Near East Relief Trachoma Hospital on the Bosphorus. U. S. Subchasers 96 and 338 transported the children down the Bosphorus and landed them at the hospital where Miss Emma Cushman, the Director, supplied the children with hot soup, a hot Turkish bath, and comfortable beds. Many sick and aged women were received with the children. The Near East workers listed the children as they left the "Rion" and a card bearing the names of the parents was tied to each child. As word was received that the parents were leaving for Serbia or other points, the subchasers returned the children to the boats to join their parents. The three days' rest with good food and hot baths did much to help the children after their nine days on the crowded, cold, unsanitary ship. The Near East Relief bakery is running extra shifts in order to supply bread for the Russian refugees in addition to the regular work of supplying the orphanages of Constantinople. Over twenty Near East personnel have been assigned to the Russian work. Mr. Curt, Director, of the Constantinople Unit, is organizing further relief work, and all personnel are ready to answer emergency calls.

On Monday, U. S. Navy men, American Red Cross representatives, and Near East Relief workers aided in transferring many refugees from the crowded Rion to the U. S. Shipping Board boat, the Eastern Victor, which had been chartered to carry refugees to Serbia. At 9 p. m., U. S. Sub-chaser 338 transported the children from the Near East Hospital to join parents leaving on this boat, and the Eastern Victor at once left the harbour. Until 1 a. m., Subchaser 338 carried supplies and water to a refugee ship near Protî and then returned with relief workers for further orders.

Constantinople is the supply base of the American Red Cross for its Russian work, and consequently the greatest burden of furnishing supplies is falling upon this organization. It has been particularly fortunate that the Red Cross warehouses were filled with quantities of supplies, and this organization has been working through all other organizations in the city furnishing food, medicines, disinfectants, etc. The boats of the Red Cross are constantly in use carrying food to the ships, and the U. S. Navy has aided with many boats in delivering Red Cross supplies. These boats have transported sick and wounded from the ships to Constantinople, and the Red Cross has placed the sick and wounded in hospitals. The organization has fully equipped a hospital of 350 beds at the Russian Embassy, 100 beds at Harbie, as well as paying for beds for patients at the American Hospital in Stamboul. Supplies have been sent to Protî for the U. S. Navy relief work on that island, and 250,900 emergency rations have been given to the refugees on the ships and in Con-

stantinople. These rations consist of cocoa, chocolate, rice, soup, bread, beef, sugar, coffee, hard tack, etc., one of the chief items being 50,000 one pound tins of condensed milk. 90 tons of food have been delivered to the ships in addition to medical supplies and disinfectants. The Red Cross has also assisted the French with milk at their camp at Yedi Koulé and other points. During the past week, supplies to the value of 1,250,000 francs have been given out. One hundred and ten tons of supplies have been forwarded to Bulgaria for the refugees landing there, and certain food supplies have been furnished to Mrs. Bristol's canteen. The Red Cross has equipped a canteen and refugee camp at Beyoukdere with mattresses and food for six hundred people for ten days. They have also made a donation of \$ 11,000 for the Russian Jewish Welfare Committee. Homes for Russian children have been equipped with supplies, and in fact the supply base has been so busy answering calls that it is hard to obtain adequate statistics.

For some time the American Y.M.C.A. has been operating a very important Russian Y.M.C.A. center in Constantinople on the Rue de Brusse. For many months, food has been supplied at cost price to 200 Russians daily. This work has been extended during the present emergency, and 120 people are now receiving free food, in addition to a much larger number receiving food at cost price. An employment bureau has been opened which also gives information concerning the obtaining of rooms at moderate prices in the city. Twenty five emergency beds have been placed in this building, and a free medical clinic is running daily. Workers and interpreters have also been sent to Protî from this center. This Y.M.C.A. branch has been the means of promoting the splendid concerts of the Russian singers and musicians on Wednesday nights, and the Russian Symphony Orchestra concerts on Friday of each week. These concerts have been a treat to all music lovers in Constantinople. The Russian Boy Scouts under this organization have aided in collecting funds which have been given to Baroness Wrangel for relief work. These boys have also been doing splendid work in caring for the wounded at the Russian Embassy under the clever leadership of Mr Repninsky. The International Y.M.C.A., 7 Rue Taxim, and the Sailors' Y.M.C.A., Rue de Pera, are both cooperating in this work, and workers have been sent to Protî to aid in the work there.

Mr. O. O. Miller, Director of the Menmonite Relief Organization, is cooperating with Mr. Thomas Whittemore, Director of the American Society for Russian Refugee Children in opening a home in Constantinople for the children of the refugees. Mr. Miller is also providing lodgings and a hot meal night and morning for a number of refugees at Pangalti, besides providing funds for general relief, and working constantly on the boats doing relief work for the Menmonites who have arrived with the refugees from Russia.

Robert College has given workers and funds, and Constantinople Girls' College is aiding in making extra clothes for the refugee children, giving funds, and cooperating in the general relief work.

The American Y.W.C.A. has for some time been doing work for the Russian girls, and is now extending its regular work to aid in finding rooms and work for the increased number of people in Constantinople. The U.S. Shipping Board's vessels have been used for transporting the refugees, and the men of the Shipping Board have personally superintended the work. The Guaranty Trust Company has taken up the matter of providing the correct exchange for the Russian money of the refugees as it was found that they were losing much money through unreliable exchange. A man from the Guaranty Trust Company has been appointed to go to the boats each day for the purpose of changing money so that the refugees will receive the right value.

This is merely an outline of the work of the American organizations as the writer knows it. Splendid work is being done on a large scale by the other nations, but the task is so huge that a great deal of misery still exists, and problems of disease, lack of sleeping space, etc., must be continually solved.

## THE AMERICAN NEAR EAST RELIEF

### TRACHOMA HOSPITAL, A SHELTER FOR

#### THE CHILDREN OF GENERAL WRANGEL'S MEN

Miss Emma Cushman and Miss Ahlers had almost completed arrangements for the new Near East Relief Trachoma Hospital and they were waiting for a trachoma specialist as a resident physician before accepting a number of trachoma patients. Rows and rows of beds were awaiting occupants the huge Turkish bath had been repaired and a shower bath installed, and the kitchens were ready to supply food for a large number of children. An infirmary for serious cases was equipped in the sunniest room overlooking the Bosphorus. Here rows of little white beds and tables gave the place a cheerful appearance. The huge old building was complete for a trachoma orphanage hospital with the exception of the patients. Then the crowded refugee ships arrived, and the congested "Rion" loaded with 5000 refugees, among them 200 wounded soldiers of Wrangel's army besides women and children. The refugees on this ship were so crowded that many could not attempt to lie down, and many had to take turns to find a place to sit. They had travelled with little food or water, and some of the children were sick from fatigue, lack of nourishment, cold and exposure. It was then decided to take the children ashore for a hot bath, good food and sleep, and the near East Relief Trachoma Hospital was in readiness. Miss Cushman and Miss Ahlers were notified that the children were coming and the cook took great interest in making huge kettles of nourishing soup. The big Turkish bath was heated and the beds were ready.

U. S. Subchaser 96 went to the crowded "Rion," Miss Gunther and Miss Hastings superintended the gathering together of the children, and they tied a large tag to each child, bearing the names of the parents, the father's occupation, and

the name of the ship. The fathers of many of these children were the officers of General Wrangel's Staff. U. S. sailors carefully carried the children to the subchaser deck, and many mothers with little babies were also taken from the refugee ship. The subchaser quickly made the trip down the Bosphorus to the Trachoma Hospital where Miss Cushman, Miss Ahlers, Mrs. Dodd, and Miss Katharine Pellows were waiting to welcome them.

The little girls were at once given food and then the little boys had their turn. One little boy ate six bowls of soup—one after another—he was so hungry. Later the kiddies had a great time in the old Turkish bath, and they slept that night in clean beds—the first time since leaving their homes in Russia. Many of the children hugged tightly their dolls and Teddy bears which they had saved as their dearest possessions. A little boy of twelve insisted upon carrying a little sick friend because he came from his town in Russia, as he explained in French. He would not leave the sick child to eat his own dinner—so they were fed together in the infirmary. The next day Mrs. D. H. Sutton, Mr. L. Ray Ogden and Miss M. Caldwell went out to the hospital to aid in the work. Sunday night another group of children was taken to the orphanage under the supervision of Miss Gunther, Mr. Van Toor, and Mr. Ogden.

The children had two or three days' rest with good care and then orders began to come for certain children to join their parents who were to leave for Serbia and other points. On Monday, November 22nd, Subchaser 338 was sent to the hospital for fourteen children to go aboard the U. S. Shipping Board boat, the Eastern Victor, to join their parents who had been transferred from the Rion to that ship. The writer and Captain Sivoleov put the little group of children aboard the Subchaser at Boyadjikeuy, and soon the little messroom of 338 was crowded with children and U. S. sailors. The sailors produced bread and jam and even a toy dog—and the children had a wonderful time. One little girl of two slept soundly in her brother's arms. About nine p.m., the subchaser reached the Eastern Victor, where Mr. Chester, Mr. Ramsay of the U. S. Shipping Board, U. S. Navy men, Mr. Van Toor and Miss Constance Horsford of the Near East, and Red Cross workers had toiled all day transferring men and women from the Rion, until 2000 were on the Eastern Victor bound for Serbia. The Eastern Victor had been scheduled to leave much earlier but waited for the children. The children with much joy climbed over the boat to meet their fathers and mothers, and the officers and men of the U. S. Shipping Board boat gave up their beds to the tired refugees. It meant new hope to these Russian people to leave the crowded, cold, Rion for the brightly lighted Eastern Victor and receive plenty of good food and clean beds. These people had left everything behind them but it was noted that each officer still treasured his sword, and one soldier carried with him everywhere a large picture of General Wrangel.

Relief workers and U. S. Navy men then boarded Subchaser 338, and supplies were taken to Profi for the U. S. Navy work there. The boat then pulled up to a Russian



ship, loaded with 5000 of Wrangel's soldiers, packed in like animals. This ship had landed only the day before and had received little water or food. They were frantic for water-cups, tin cans, pitchers, pails were thrown over the side of the boat, and the U. S. sailors pumped water, and the relief workers joined in filling the cans and cups, until the water supply was finished. Many fur Russian caps were handed down for pieces of bread, and the sailors gave tinned milk from their own supplies. At 1 a. m., supplies were finished, and the boat pulled away. We left behind us soldiers calling for water, and the subchaser went after another supply. Day and night U. S. subchasers have been working in this way, together with the boats of other nationalities, but it is the task of supplying 135,000 people with water and food until better arrangements can be made for them.

On Wednesday, the Near East sailboat, "Delight", which for over a year has carried supplies from our supply base at Derindje, was brought into use to carry children to the ships. Miss Dingleline, Captain Sivoleov and Mr. Van Toor superintended the work of taking children and mothers and babies to the Rion. It was not the swift trip made by the subchasers, and a cold drizzly rain was falling. The Delight has had more experience in carrying beans than in transporting children, but it did the work, and returned to the orphanage hospital at 1 a. m. Thursday morning with another load of applicants for hot baths and food.

CARES E. MILLS.

### NOTES

The Near East Relief Supply Department is carrying on its regular work of distributing supplies to its many stations and in addition to this is answering many calls for the present emergency situation in Constantinople.

Miss Glee Hastings has visited the Turkish orphanages in the city and has reported on the efficient manner in which they are conducted. The children are well dressed and well fed, there is a system of physical exercises in operation, and the children receive industrial training in connection with their regular school work.

Miss Hastings sent an appeal to her home city in Iowa for toys and money for the orphanage children. She has received a report that boxes of toys have been sent to the Headquarters of the Near East Relief, 1 Madison Ave., New York City, to be shipped to Constantinople, and that a fund of five hundred dollars has been taken up to aid in buying extra supplies for the orphans.

A number of the Near East personnel contributed a fund to give food to a Constantinople, refugee camp on Thanksgiving Day. A Near East truck took the food on Thanksgiving morning, and Near East personnel distributed it among the most needy families. A portion of the fund was spent for cooking utensils for which there was a very great need. Y.W.C.A. workers also contributed to the fund.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Miss Doris Nevin has arrived in Constantinople from Adana, and will remain a short time in this city for the work with the Russian refugees for the Near East Relief.

Mr. James E. Van Toor, who recently arrived in Constantinople from New York, is leaving to take charge of the Near East Relief work in Adana. For the last week Mr. Van Toor has been doing work in connection with the Russian refugee emergency problem.

Miss Constance Horsford has been temporarily assigned to the work of the Inquiry Bureau for the Russian people at the American Embassy, Constantinople.

Miss Katherine Pellow has been temporarily assigned to aid Miss Cushman at the Near East Trachoma Hospital. This hospital has taken charge of the work of caring for a number of the Russian children and sick and aged women from the refugee ships.

Mr. Lester Ray Ogden, Mrs. Dorethy H. Sutton and Miss M. L. Caldwell are also aiding Miss Cushman in the emergency work of caring for the Russians assigned to the Trachoma hospital.

Miss Nancy Benson is in Brousa for a short vacation.

Mr. Philip Leon Flora has completed his contract with the Near East Relief and has sailed for France.

Dr. William S. Dodd is reported to be in Samsoun. He has been making inspection trips to different points in the interior concerning the medical work.

Dr. C. W. Strowger has completed his work on the Island of Marmora, and is now assigned to Protî to help in the work for the Russians on that island.

Mr. Charles White has returned from Ismidt and Bardizag where he has been installing a new system of accounting.

Miss Mabelle C. Phillips and Miss Frances McQuaide are on Protî doing the Near East work for the Russian refugees.

Mr. Ernest Riggs expects to leave the first of the week on his trip to the Beirut area.

We regret to report the illness of Dr. C. F. H. Crathern. Dr. Crathern made a trip for Y.M.C.A. work in the interior and was taken ill while travelling from Harpoot to Diarbekir. Mrs. Crathern has arrived from America and will make every effort to join Dr. Crathern at Diarbekir as quickly as possible.

Captain W. A. Sivoleov is working with the Near East Relief in doing the Russian work.

# Near East Relief

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December 11, 1920

## A VISIT TO DEURT YOL AND EUZERLI

By Miss ELIZABETH WEBB

Just after daylight on the morning of October 20th, a "Y" worker and I took the train for a visit to Deurt Yol and Euzerli. After fourteen months without a single night outside of Adana, and especially after the imprisonment during the strenuous weeks of the siege, there was something of excitement and mild adventure in being again free to travel at will.

Even the Adana station looked unnatural with its barricades of sand bags, while our armored train added to the spirit of adventure. Bent steel rails lying by the side of the track, newly repaired bridges, wrecked village station houses surrounded by wire entanglements, nothing left but walls and roof, where the train made no stop, and where no human being was in sight, broken telegraph poles festooned with pieces of wire—all bore witness to the events of the past weeks. In every case the wire entanglements surrounding the station houses were hung thick with old tin cans, a new kind of burglar alarm. I was assured that a touch any place on the wire would set them jingling.

Only two stops were made in the four hours between Adana and Toprak Kalé where we were to change cars for Deurt Yol, and only one human being did we see outside the vicinity of these two places. This one exception was a Turk riding a forlorn looking horse, with a white rag hanging from a pole stuck upright in his pack saddle. As the train moved along we were impressed by the scores of threshing floors where the cut wheat had been left to rot in the sun and rain.

We were disappointed not to find a train through to Deurt Yol that day. Most of the rooms in the station at Toprak Kalé being occupied by soldiers, I was glad to be allowed to curtain off one corner of the office, while my "Y" companion shared a box car with six other men.

Our ride the next morning was in a box car with a dilapidated barricade of sand bags still in evidence. We were glad to use one as a seat while the contents of several were scattered on the floor with other debris, and several others lined the sides of the car.

The same desolate loneliness of the previous day! The telegraph wires cut, some of the poles upright, others lying by the side of the track. No human being in sight!

One stop at Erzin, and finally after about two hours, we arrived. To be sure it was only a mud hole, with only a little station house in sight. We were told the refugees sent from Adana had spent three nights here in a hard rain storm.

The remains of the pitiful attempts at protection by booths made from the wild myrtle growing near, were much in evidence. Everywhere was slimy mud and we could only wonder how they survived. We were at last able to obtain conveyance to the village two miles further on.

Reaching Euzerli just before noon, we found the preacher of the village busy selling relief flour at a low rate to the refugees and inhabitants. The money received from the sale of the flour is used in giving employment to the people, keeping them alive and at the same time not pauperizing them. Deurt Yol is about one mile distant from Euzerli. The people of these two villages have been shut up, unable to go to their fields to work, and much of the time cut off from the outside world for a year past. The severe cold last winter destroyed a large part of their oranges, and cut off this year's crop entirely. These are their main sources of support. Consequently even now in October there is a shortage of bread. How they will live during the coming year, I do not know.

Just at present the situation is improving, many Turks who have left their homes in Chai (the Turkish part of Deurt Yol) are returning. The railroad connection with Adana, and the sailboat connection with Alexandretta have been newly reestablished. If these can be kept open, the situation in every respect will improve.

The difficulties in these two places have recently been immensely increased by the addition of about three thousand refugees to the original population. Eleven hundred came from Hassan Beyli early in August. They were obliged to leave a wonderful crop of wheat in the fields just ready to reap. Their gardens were full of vegetables. They say they had planted the whole mountain side. Their houses had been newly repaired with aid from the Near East Relief. Most of them again lost everything, many losing even the little pack they tried to carry on their backs, and arriving in Deurt Yol with only the clothes they were wearing. We found them in a pitiful condition, some sleeping on the bare ground with no covering. All empty houses, porches, orange store-houses, every available place was filled with these refugees.

After places had been found with much difficulty for the 1,100, nearly 2,000 refugees from Adana were added to their number. The situation is tragic both for the poor people of these two places and for the refugees. The responsibility of providing shelter in both places is put upon the people of the place. Houses of one or two rooms are crowded with two, three or four families. The real inhabitants of Euzerli number 550. Their portion of the refugees from Hassan Beyli was 400, and later they had to provide shelter for nearly 600 of those from

Adana. A house of one room was occupied by three families. The number seemed to be measured largely by the floor space for sleeping. It was distressing to see many sleeping on the damp ground with only a straw mat or half a blanket under them. These villages are between mountains and the sea and have much rain, so the ground is very damp. In one house I found a boy sick with malaria, his only bedding a single blanket in which he rolled himself. Though the thermometer does not register low, yet it seemed cold as well as damp.

In spite of poverty, crowded conditions, difficulties of all kinds, we found schools going on as usual. An interesting meeting was held while we were there when Sisag Effendi told the story of A Modern Sir Galahad to a crowded house. The room was lighted by two small kerosene lamps which left it in semi-darkness. Even the little children packed in on the floor around the room listened intently for a full hour. A school of seventy children was being held at Euzerli, and one of 150 at Deurt Yol. There is also an attempt at a hospital and clinic.

To meet the need in these two places, the Near East Relief has sent 400 sacks of flour, 3 barrels of fat, 3,400 yards of native cloth, 53 woven floor mats, a kilo of quinine, as well as 1,750 blankets. These are sold at a low price, and the money used to pay the people for work. In this way the roads and water-ways in both places are being improved.

We made a short visit of one day to Alexandretta where 1,500 refugees from Adana and Mersine have recently been transported. It is difficult to see how they can gain a living here, there being no factories, and few openings for work.

Our return to Adana was largely a repetition of the journey out, except that we were able to go in one day without spending the night at Toprak Kalé. We noticed a difference in several Turkish villages which a week before had appeared deserted. Many of the inhabitants had returned and were now busy gathering their cotton. Much of their wheat had been left to rot in the fields and therefore the wheat crop was lost. If the cotton is to be saved, their whole strength must be given to gathering it. But the time has come for planting wheat for the coming year, and no plowing is being done for it. The two things that impressed me most deeply on the trip were the condition of the refugees from Hassan Beyli, and the fact that on all this great plain, so far as we could see, almost no plowing is being done in preparation for next year's wheat crop. Now is the time it *must* be done, if ever. The few people who have returned to their farms are behind with the cotton picking, lacking in oxen for plowing and probably lacking in confidence for the future, as well as the means necessary for planting a new crop. The prospects for next year's food supply on the whole of this fertile plain are very poor indeed.

NOTE: Miss Henry reports from Adana that they are making every effort to forward more Near East supplies for the relief of these people.

#### DR. C. W. STROWGER'S TRIP WITH MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE ISLAND OF MARMORA

On the Island of Marmora, near the Dardanelles, are five little fishing villages inhabited by fisher folk who have suffered greatly during the war. During the past year and a half the Near East Relief has sent fishing nets, flour, and money to aid the inhabitants of the island in reestablishing their homes and trades. A report was received at the headquarters of the Near East Relief in Constantinople that these people were badly in need of medical aid. Therefore during the latter part of October, Dr. C. W. Strowger and a native assistant were sent to the island with food and medicine for a relief and inspection trip.

They first landed at the picturesque little village of Marmora, situated at the edge of the sea, with a background of mountains of brilliant coloring in dull reds, blues and purples. The people of this village lived in a very primitive way—earning their living by fishing and gardening. The terraced gardens on the sides of the mountains were filled with vegetables, olive trees and vineyards. The olive harvest had been good but the fishing season was poor and the hauling in of the nets brought few results. Dr. Strowger at once opened a medical clinic at the home of the Bishop, and the villagers came to him for treatment, medicine, and medical advice. There was no epidemic of sickness in this village but the ordinary ills found in a community where the people are very poor and have few facilities for medical treatment.

When the ills of the village of Marmora had been treated and medical supplies had been left with the Bishop for future use, Dr. Strowger and his assistant mounted their donkeys and travelled over the mountain trails through a wild and rugged country to the village of Kalouskai, situated in a swamp at the border of the sea. Here he found the people suffering from chronic malaria—every one had it—and the faces of the people were yellow and parched looking. A clinic was opened in the house of the chief man of the village, and quantities of quinine were given out, and a supply left with the Bishop. Here Dr. Strowger had a slight attack of illness, and he was awakened to find standing beside his bed his interpreter and three women chanting. The women were holding saucers of oil and candles. The wax of the candle was dropped into the oil and the women anxiously watched for the shape of the figure made by the wax. They seemed quite excited by the result and dashed oil in Dr. Strowger's face as a protection from the Evil Eye which the wax and oil had indicated was hovering around him. This was the interpretation of the native assistant, and it is probably one of the forms of medical treatment used when a doctor is not to be found on the island.

Dr. Strowger continued his trip to the three other little villages where he found practically the same conditions as in the first two. Malaria and tuberculosis were prevalent on the island and therefore cod liver oil and quinine were left with the Bishop or chief man of each town for use during the coming winter.



In the villages of Plati and Aftoni were splendid marble quarries and these quarries employed the greater number of the people of the two towns. The pavements were made of slabs of marble and many of the houses were constructed of the same material in dull yellow and pink tints. The aqueduct which carries the water to the village of Aftoni was entirely of marble, even the roof being formed of huge marble slabs. A marble fountain supplied the village with water, and to this fountain each day came the villagers with jugs upon their heads to carry water. The fountain is their meeting place and forms perhaps the only social event of the day.

The people of these villages are struggling hard to regain the footing they lost during the war. They toil away in their gardens, travelling from the village to the terraces by mule. They have a good supply of nets and boats, and when the fishing improves they will be more independent. The villagers were very grateful for the medical aid and advice, and Dr. Strowger reports that it was a pleasure to help them.

### THE LIFE AT THE NEAR EAST RELIEF ORPHANAGE AT BARDIZAG

(Report for October)

#### Little Sickness at Bardizag

As a result of giving out shoes to the children, dispensary cases dropped from over forty a day to about twenty. Scabies cases are pretty well wiped out, but a few of the new boys had it when they entered. Only one case of trachoma has been found and this boy was sent to the Near East Relief hospital at Izmid.

#### Making the Money Cover many Needs

The cherries dried during the summer weighed about 100 pounds when put in boxes for the winter. We bought most of these cherries at from 5-6 piasters per oke when Bardizag was cut off from the outside world and there was no market. Another way in which our enforced isolation was a gain is that it saved us the expense of a hired cook. Our cook had gone to Constantinople for a vacation. During his visit the way was closed and he could not return. So our boys learned to cook and have been doing the cooking during the summer. In addition to this they have made 150 pounds of tomato sauce from the tomatoes in their own garden. So as not to disappoint the little fellows who wished to plant some *macaroni seed* in their gardens, we made about 300 pounds from flour and eggs. They are very fond of macaroni soups.

A good chance to buy 1,600 okes of charcoal came our way because a poor man of the village made his wood into charcoal in order to save it. He sold it to us at 4 piasters per oke. We also bought a large ruined wooden house in the village for 27½ pounds, and this furnished us much wood for repairs and fuel.

Under supplies perhaps we should mention that in October we made the last payment on the new store-room we had to build at the boat landing. This brought the total

cost in cash to 576 pounds. The value is estimated at 2,000 pounds. The difference in figures is partly explained by the facts that the land was given to us and the boys did a lot of the work themselves. It is now filled with winter supplies and we wonder how we ever managed without it.

#### Bardizag has made Room for more Boys

Five of our boys were found to have brothers in other orphanages and as we now have room for more boys, and the way is open, we are trying to have the brothers sent to us. We have made room for more beds by taking out attic partitions and making dormitories of former store-rooms.

#### Teaching the Boys to use their Hands

Garden work was "rained" out of business this month. Interest centred on "buzdeck dunes" (little houses). The boys have built about fifteen of the finest wood-framed, mud-plastered, 6x8 houses, with tiled roofs. Some of the houses were built, torn down, and rebuilt four or five times before the desired result was obtained—each time an improvement was made and they learned a little more about house-building.

To teach the boys to keep their feet dry, we took away shoes and stockings when we found them wet. This led them to make stone paths to all their houses—so now we have a little village quite our own.

#### Mrs. Kingsbury's Sewing Class of Boys

Mrs. Kingsbury's sewing class did such good work and proved so popular that she had to start another. In one week six of her advanced boys made 90 pairs of winter trousers. A native woman took charge of the advanced class while Mrs. Kingsbury started a new class of 13. Most of the new boys have completed the course of learning various stitches, seams, patches, etc., and have started their first real work of making underclothes. They do their own cutting out and to date have 92 pairs of drawers in various stages of completion. Still other boys are asking for admission to the sewing classes. The first class has been at it all summer when they did most of the general repairing of all the clothes. So faithful have they been and so interested that we have been wondering if we could not make clothes for some other orphanages—just as one of the orphanages in Constantinople is making shoes. Give us the cloth, thread, a few more machines, and the orders, and our boys will turn out the goods. Our school is arranged so that the boys working half the day receive lessons during the remaining half.

#### Thanks to America, Everything is ready for the Cold Weather

We have never been in better condition for winter. Except for a little shortage in shoes (which we are hoping will come before Christmas), we have our big supplies of clothes, and food or fuel either on hand or provision made for it. We are thankful to all those who have made this possible—both the Supply Department of the Headquarters in Constantinople and generous friends in America. We are also glad that the Constantinople District has been arranged

with a head who has special interest in small centers like ours. If the Americans at home who sent us "the stuff" could see our shivering boys transformed into beaming youngsters when the warm clothes were given out, they would feel well repaid for their efforts and sacrifices. For the first time in thirty years, Bardizag had snow in October and it was a great satisfaction to be in readiness for the cold weather. In two hours and a half we refitted two hundred boys with suits, sweaters and small overcoats, and that night many hearts as well as bodies were warm because of America.

J. H. KINGSBURY

### WORK AT IZMID

#### 150 of Miss Holt's Children Attend Miss Kinney's American School

The Month of October opens a new era in the experiences of our orphans. Never since the good old days before the war, those happy days when they were real children with real fathers and mothers, have they mingled freely with normal children belonging to real families.

Now for the first time in the history of Izmid, an American School has been opened. For decades the people of this picturesque town have longed for an American School, and in the past they have longed in vain. A year and a half ago an orphanage was opened by the Near East Relief under an American director and classes were held each day in the orphanage—but only children without fathers or mothers were admitted. Therefore the children of Izmid living with their families were still without their much desired American School.

It is an ill wind that blows no one good. Thus the hurricane that after several month's duration dislodged the Adabazar Orphanage blew into Izmid an American equipment and immediately plans were formulated for the opening of an American School here.

The military force occupied the Armenian National School building as a signal station, and therefore a portion of the orphanage was turned over for school purposes. This provided educational space for the children with parents, but left only one large room for the industrial work of the orphans. Therefore to the American School under Miss Kinney are sent 150 of the 240 orphans for education. We keep the less advanced children at the orphanage and give them lessons in the industrial room in the morning. The kindergarten and higher classes go to Miss Kinney—the higher classes however only attending school half a day. Our afternoons are devoted to industrial work. In the large room are many groups—one class spinning, another knitting stockings or sweaters for themselves or the younger children, some hemstitching or doing other fine needlework, and the larger girls have a class in dressmaking. There is also training in the kitchen and hospital.

In the school room we give a child as much work as her mentality will absorb. Those who are found to be much more adept with their hands than in their studies are given a greater amount of industrial training and fewer hours in school.

SOPHIE S. HOLT

### ARRIVAL OF CLOTHES FROM AMERICA

Miss Hastings has visited the refugee camps of the city and has reported that the Armenian, Greek and Turkish refugees were badly in need of clothes. The weather of Constantinople at present is damp and cold, the camps are unheated, and the refugees are often clad in only a bundle of rags. Therefore the arrival of shipments of clothes from America has been a godsend to many shivering refugees. Bags of clothing have been sent to the directors of the camps, shipments of clothing have been sent to the Caucasus, and American clothes are playing a large part in supplying warmth to thousands of homeless people in the Near East this winter. If the people in America who gave the clothes could see the distribution, they would be fully repaid for the trouble and work of collecting the clothes, packing and shipping them.

### DEATH OF CAPTAIN J. H. ROBINSON

It is with deep regret we report the death of Captain J. H. Robinson, Friday, December 10 at the American Hospital, Stamboul. Funeral services will be held at the chapel at Feri Keuy, Sunday, December 12th, at 3 o'clock.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Mr. H. C. Jaquith and Mr. L. Ray Ogden are expecting to leave next Monday for Batoum.

Mr. Edgar M. Robinson, Senior International Secretary Boys' Work and Mr. Charles R. Scott, State Secretary Boys' Work for New Jersey, of the Y.M.C.A., have spent the past ten days in Constantinople in the interests of the boys in this city. They have been visiting the Turkish, the Armenian, and Greek orphanages as well as schools, and they were very favorably impressed with the institutions. They are leaving for Port Said where they will board a steamer for India. The plan is to make a world tour in the interests of the boys of every country.

Miss M. L. Caldwell and Mrs. D. H. Sutton have been temporarily assigned to aid Mr. Hinkle in the Supply Department of the Headquarters' office, Constantinople.

Mr. McC. Eddy, Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Uhls, Miss G. W. Blackwell, Miss M. L. Morton, and Miss Constance Sheltman have just arrived in Constantinople from United States for work with the Near East Relief.

# Near East Relief

WILLIAM I. HOLT  
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## MERRY XMAS TO THE NEAR EAST WORKERS IN THE FIELD AND TO THE NEAR EAST WORKERS IN AMERICA

We wish to thank the workers in America who are making it possible for the workers in the field to give our huge family of children a merry Xmas.

Last night thousands of children in America hung up their stockings and waited for Santa Claus. Over here in Turkey, for the first time since the war, every child has a stocking. Stockings are something to be thankful for over here even if there are no toys to put in them—but the Near East personnel of the different units are planning to do their utmost to give the children a merry Xmas. The old clothes sent from America are playing a large part as Xmas presents because warm clothes are perhaps the greatest gift.

In Constantinople many Xmas celebrations have been planned—at Yedi Koulé Near East Hospital, the American sailors will adopt a child for Xmas day and give it presents; at St. Anne's Orphanage, Pera, there will be a Christmas tree loaded with presents which were purchased with money sent from Spencer, Iowa; and there will be Xmas trees nearly every day Xmas week at the various orphanages. Although the trees grew in Turkey, they were transplanted to the orphanages by America.

Early this morning Armenian orphans serenaded the Near East Relief personnel houses with "Holy Night" and "America" sung in English, and the Turkish orphans showed their good will by bringing to the Near East a Christmas tree although they do not celebrate Christmas.

The next issue is our Xmas number and the story of the Christmas trees will be given.

## THE NEAR EAST BABIES OF FAR AWAY HARPOOT

Harpoot Near East Unit is very proud of its eighteen babies and its baby hospital which was organized by Miss Laura MacFetridge under the direction of Dr. Ruth Parmelee. Here the mothers with babies from the Near East Rescue Home receive care and instruction in child welfare according to American methods.

### Dr. Holt's Methods Taught in Asia Minor

Within three minutes' walk of the Near East Hospital compound is the baby hospital. In a sunny room are eighteen little cribs filled with eighteen little oriental babies with

black curly hair and large dark eyes—but receiving the same care as a baby in the United States according to the methods prescribed by Dr. Holt. The cribs were made by the boys' carpentry department, and each baby is very proud of his or her little bed. For example, John objects loudly to sleeping in Arshag's bed, and Arshag raises noisy protests if he is accidentally placed in the crib of Antranig.

The hospital for babies is in charge of Dr. Ruth Parmelee and one American nurse with the assistance of a native nurse. The first American nurse was Miss Laura MacFetridge, of Morrisville, New Jersey. Miss MacFetridge was succeeded by Miss M. E. MacLellan who is now doing the work. The American doctor and nurse have the supervision of many other phases of the medical work of the Unit, and therefore the native nurse makes the daily inspection tour, reporting at 8 a. m. to the American nurse that the hospital is in readiness for the day.

### A Day in the Nursery

The day in the nursery begins at 5 a. m. with a cry from Helen demanding her bath. Helen is a beautiful baby. She is eleven months' of age, and has had American care almost since the beginning of her short life. Helen is quite the beauty of the nursery with her large oriental eyes and quantities of curly hair.

The fires are built in the hospital at 5:30 a. m., water is heated, and eighteen babies are given their baths. At six o'clock the babies are fed, also according to Dr. Holt, and then washing and cleaning of the nursery takes place. The babies are carried to the sun parlor (the roof) where they spend the day in the open air in warm weather, and about two hours a day in cold weather.

### The Native Way of Caring for a Baby.

Compare the above method with the following—the native custom of caring for a child in the Harpoot region. The mother feeds the baby whenever it cries, and she gives it "etmek" from three months up. "Etmek" is unleavened bread about half an inch in thickness and possesses all the nutriment which a baby *should not have*. The lower part of the baby's body is tightly bound the greater part of the first year. This binding is supposed to make the baby straight according to the theory of native mothers. The babies lie on their backs and are seldom, if ever, in a sitting-up position. This gives the back of the head a flattened appearance. During the winter the houses are tightly sealed to keep out the cold, and consequently the baby receives little, if any, fresh air.



### The Baby of the Near East Relief

The Near East Relief native babies have round heads; they can freely kick their feet; they are fed on nourishing baby foods and milk on schedule time; they sleep and play in the sunlight; they receive hot baths daily—and the result is a large, fat, healthy baby—very different from the puny, sickly babies brought to the hospital. And the mothers who wearily found their way to the Near East Relief compound, not caring whether they lived or died, taking little or no interest in the baby, have developed an interest in the care of the child—something for which to work. This interest has grown to such an extent that when one of the Near East Relief workers wished to adopt one of the babies of the Rescue Home, the mother would not part with it but stated she would work and care for it herself. Therefore the baby home is not only making healthier, happier babies, but it is teaching the mothers proper care of the children and is creating an interest in these women which is giving them a new desire to live.

### A Lace Class for the Mothers

When the babies are six months of age, the mother attends the lace class half the day. This teaches them the industry of making the beautiful native laces which, we hope, will later make the mother and baby independent.

### America's Child Welfare Work

America's child welfare work is reaching far into the interior of Asia Minor to the edge of the Euphrates River—where mothers have used the same old methods of caring for their children since Bible times—because they knew no better way. Therefore it is not only the tinned milk and supplies, which are sent by the American people to travel over the rough roads by camel train to these far away cities, which are giving aid—but with the supplies travel American workers who teach new methods and give new ideas to the women of the East.

### SIDON NEAR EAST ORPHANAGE NOW IN CHARGE OF MISS JOSEPHINE HUSE

Letter written at Sidon, Syria, November 17th.

"Here I am in a little realm of my own at the end of the Mediterranean where the world began. The girls' orphanage, of which I am now in charge, consists of five buildings right on the beach at the north end of Sidon, with three hundred children, nine teachers, two nurses, and nine dogs! Quite a family, isn't it?

### Orphanage Work is far from Uneventful

I can assure you the life is far from dull and uneventful. There is the winter supply of wood and charcoal to get in; there are olives to be prepared for the children's rations, and lentils to be washed and dried: The winter dresses have just been given out, and there are the old summer ones to be

mended and put away. There are slate pencils and tablets to be doled out sparingly; broken window panes to be repaired, and new drain pipes to be put in. Added to these, there are two cases of chicken pox and mumps, while there are trachoma cases, scabies, and sore heads galore.

### Trachoma in Beirut Area

I thought the percentage of children in Constantinople orphanages with trachoma was high. It is much worse here. The eye specialist, who is operating every day this week on the children here, told me yesterday that eighty percent of the children in orphanages here in Syria have trachoma. I cannot believe that this statement is accurate. It surely is not true of this orphanage. Twenty seven of the fifty girls who came to us from Tripoli two weeks ago have trachoma. These are the cases which the doctor is now treating.

### The Severe Treatment of Trachoma

I have never seen anything more pathetic than the long line of children outside the hospital door every afternoon. They are not given to crying and are usually very happy and very quiet. Today, however, when I went down, those waiting outside were leaning against the wall, their heads buried in their arms, sobbing bitterly. I cannot bear to watch the operation which is about as barbarous a process as the most savage man can conceive. The eyelid is turned back and scraped until it bleeds freely while the poor victim writhes in agony. I fled, feeling faint and sick, after watching a pathetic little four year old girl, who has also had tape worm, scabies, and mumps, have the operation upon one eye. After the operations were over, I returned and found the children with their eyes bandaged shut, still sobbing. One room was full of them, packed two and three in a cot.

I surely hope that the Near East trachoma hospital in Constantinople will be a success, and that a laboratory for research work can be run in connection with it. Something surely should be done to prevent the spreading of a disease so dangerous and so prevalent. Surely a more humane treatment can be worked out with time and study."

### DR. C. R. GANNAWAY HAS HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE IN TREATING TRACHOMA

Since reading the letter of Miss Josephine Huse, we feel sure that the Beirut area will be glad to welcome Dr. C. R. Gannaway who is to shortly join that area of the Near East Relief. Dr. Gannaway has treated trachoma for over a year in the Near East orphanages of the interior. His method of operating on the eyelid is quick and effective, and the patient is given an anesthetic while the operation is in process, thus alleviating to a great extent the pain of the old method. While Dr. Gannaway was in the Cesarea Unit, he was able to bring the percentage of trachoma cases in the orphanages to a very low figure, and before leaving he taught the native doctor his methods.

### AMERICAN WORK FOR THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES AT PROTI

The U. S. Navy has charge of the work on the Island of Proti for the Russian refugees, and was assisted by workers from the Near East Relief, American Red Cross, and the American Y.M.C.A. The near East Relief workers were Miss M. C. Phillips, Dr E. Graff, Dr. C. W. Strowger, Miss Frances McQuaide, and temporary assistance from Mrs. Sutton. In addition to this there was volunteer help from members of other organizations as well as Russian workers.

The Navy is still carrying on the work on Proti for Russian mothers with babies. This work is under the charge of Dr. C. W. Strowger with the assistance of Miss Loretta Quinn and Madam Steretsky. The following is Miss Phillip's story of the American work on Proti:

Anyone who has been on shipboard for over a week knows the joys of landing upon terra firma again. This, we thought, was the greatest gift we were able to give to the Refugees from Sebastopol who had spent from two to three weeks in ships so crowded that many could not even sit on the decks but had to maintain an upright position for days.

#### The "Leg Stretching" Station at Proti

"The Leg Stretching Station" at Proti, as we came to call it, filled a real want. Not only did the refugees come ashore and stretch their legs along the beach, but to spend a night they had to climb a long and rocky hill, fully a mile's walk, to the old Monastery.

Although there was a soup kitchen near the shore where soup was given to thousands daily, and Dr. C. W. Strowger later established his hospital in the village, it was at the old Monastery that we were chiefly occupied with the refugees. A large empty building, capable of sheltering over a thousand under roofs and as many more as desired to sleep on mild nights in the enclosed court, on a terrace sheltered with pine trees, overlooking the Sea of Marmora—such was the Monastery. An asset it certainly was for the work, and in fact almost our only asset for the refugee work on Proti. Water is at a premium on the island, and fresh water at the Monastery soon disappeared. Even sea water had to be brought up the hill for bathing purposes. Firewood was also a rarity. Although three donkeys devoted their days to the task, it was scarcely possible to keep enough wood at the Monastery to maintain necessary fires.

Under these conditions, it will be readily seen that it was difficult to take the best sanitary care of the Refugees. No delouser was available, and the Refugee boats remaining only a day or two did not allow time for sulphur fumigation although we used it for the clothing of hospital cases who remained longer with us. Moreover it was impossible to obtain sufficient garments to dress the refugees while their clothing underwent fumigation. So finally, with much reluctance, we abandoned our program of "thorough-goingness" for the inevitable "do the best you can."

Besides the opportunity for leg stretching, as outlined

above, the other ways of contributing to the comfort of the Russian refugees were these:

- (1) We separated the sick and put them in hospitals either in Constantinople (if they were typhus or serious cases) or at Proti in the village or in the Monastery.
- (2) We fed every person two rations a day of soup and bread.
- (3) We offered shelter while the boats were cleaned and fumigated; the refugees were then returned to the clean boats in a much better condition.
- (4) We gave every child a hot bath and clean underwear as well as rations of hot cocoa twice a day—with a parting gift of sweet chocolate. Babies were given milk.
- (5) We gave nearly every woman a hot bath, and some received new underwear.
- (6) Many of the officers and a few of the men received hot or cold baths, and the particularly needy were given underwear.
- (7) We listened to every story of distress, wrote letters, instituted search for relatives, and kept the relatives of our hospital patients until the patients recovered—in this way keeping families together as much as possible.

The editorial we of this article refers not only to the Near East Relief personnel of five but to the entire staff of Navy, Y.M.C.A., Near East, and Russian assistants—fifteen persons in all. We were glad of the chance to help these distressed people, and for two weeks, including three Sundays and Thanksgiving Day, we thought of nothing else. Complete cooperation and entire harmony prevailed among the workers, and it was an experience none of us is likely to forget.

I must mention in this article that a lovely baby was born at the Monastery, and the widowed mother afterwards married our noble Cossack cook! The child was named "Monasteria" after its first home, the Monastery.

M. C. PHILLIPS

#### Continuation of the Work on Proti for Mothers with Babies

Although the boats have carried away thousands of the refugees, and Proti is no longer a "Leg Stretching Station," although the lines of weary refugees flocking to the soup kitchen are scenes of the past—Proti's work is not finished.

Under the supervision of Dr. C. W. Strowger, a hospital has been organized for the Russian mothers with nursing babies. On the side of the hill, overlooking the Sea of Marmora, is an old Turkish house where tired Russian mothers with tiny babies are having a chance to rest and receive good food. Miss Loretta Quinn, of the Near East Relief, is assisting Dr. Strowger, and Madam Steritsky has charge of supplies; while the U.S. Navy boats transport the mothers and supplies to the island. For the first time in many weeks, these mothers have each a bed with plenty of warm blankets and a space for their belongings. After the crowded boats, it is

interesting to see how each little space is treasured, and how neatly the clothes and the few household articles belonging to the mothers are arranged.

There is a central dining room where the mothers eat their meals. For breakfast they are served cocoa, bread, and an egg; at eleven o'clock more cocoa; for lunch a thick Russian soup with bread, and meat every other day, and for supper sardines or some kind of fish, bread and cocoa.

Dr. Strowger and Miss Quinn have sixty beds in readiness for the mothers. Proti at this time of the year is much warmer than Constantinople, and the place is ideal for the purpose of caring for the mothers with nursing babies. There are still empty beds waiting for the mothers who are scattered over the city in the Russian refugee camps.

### CONSTANTINOPLE UNIT REPORT OF REFUGEE CAMPS FOR NOVEMBER

During the month of November, much has been done by the Constantinople Unit of the Near East Relief to ameliorate the extremely bad conditions in the refugee camps. They are still, however, badly crowded and unsanitary; the refugees are undernourished, and many of them should have medical attention. During the coming month it is planned to have a thorough medical inspection of the camps, which will surely bring to light further needs for the wretched camp inhabitants. Particular attention will be paid to the hundreds of little children.

The following supplies have been issued to the camps during November.

3,500 kilos charcoal (to Psamatia and Scutari camps where the most feeble refugees are sheltered),  
62 bales of old clothes,  
500 kilos soap,  
3,445 sets underwear,

In addition to the above, 12 bales of clothes were sent to the Red Cross Hospital at Yedi Koulé where many of the sick refugees are sent.

I am enclosing a "before and after" picture of a mother and two little children who were very grateful for old clothes sent from America. Imagine trying to survive the cold, damp weather of a Constantinople winter clothed in practically a few rags. There are still many cold, ragged, and hungry children in the camps.

C. L. HASTINOS

NOTE: We regret that the "before and after" picture cannot be published here but the American clothes entirely changed the appearance (and we are sure the feelings) of the little family.

The above report does not refer to the Russian refugee camps for which American aid is given through a Committee composed of the American organizations of the city.

### Special Donations for the Week

A donation of muslin to the value of five hundred dollars has been assigned to the Turkish orphanages for sheets and pillow slips for which there was an urgent need.

Five hundred liras have been given to the Armenian Red Cross as a special donation for the month of December.

Miss Glee Hasting has received a fund of five hundred dollars from the people of Spencer, Iowa, to be used for a few of the many needs of the Constantinople orphanages.

The Derindje Supply Base has sent up two shipments of German sandbags to be made into school bags, etc., for the orphanage children; a peace time use which probably never entered the mind of the German manufacturer.

Shipments of old clothes from America are still being sent out and are playing a large part in giving warmth to the refugees this winter.

The above are a few small gifts given in addition to the regular work of supplying the Near East Relief hospitals, orphanages, and industrial centers.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

Colonel J. P. Coombs, Managing Director of the Anatolia area of the Near East Relief, returned to Constantinople December 22nd and was warmly welcomed by the Constantinople Near East personnel.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Riggs arrived in Constantinople December 22nd from Harpoot. They were accompanied by Miss Mary Riggs.

Miss Ruth Henry, who has been for sometime Director of the Adana Unit, is in Constantinople on her way to America. Mr. J. E. Van Toor has arrived in Adana and is now directing the Unit.

Miss Margaret Farnsworth left Constantinople December 23rd to join the Near East area in Beirut.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Foley, who have been connected with the Harpoot Unit for over a year, are now in Constantinople. They have been assigned to the Beirut area.

Mrs. Amy A. Burt is taking Mrs. Johnston's place as manager of the three personnel houses in Constantinople. Mrs. Johnston is leaving for the United States in a few days.

Miss Loretta Quinn is assisting Dr. C. W. Strowger with the hospital for Russian mothers and babies on Proti.

Miss Mary Broadhead has returned from a few days' vacation in Derindje.

Miss Carrie Young, of the Y. W. C. A., has returned to Constantinople after a tour of inspection for the Y. W. C. A.

Mr. G. E. Kuntz and Mr. McBride, of the Caucasus area, are in Constantinople.